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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 January Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Comments on Downing of Libyan Planes *[MENA]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to U.S. Downing of 2 Libyan Planes 4
Al-Quds Radio Reports Clash 4
Jibril Contacts Libyans *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
Jibril To 'Punish' U.S. *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 4
Qaddumi Condemns 'Aggression' *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
PLO's Khalid al-Hasan Interviewed on Crash *[London TV]* 5
'Arafat Addresses Riyadh Ceremony on 'Uprising' *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 3 Jan]* 6
VOL Cites 'Arafat Remarks 6
Fatah's Salah Khalaf Holds News Conference *[WAKH]* 6
Hurani on Elections in Territories, USSR Ties *[Sanaa VOP]* 7
Syrian-Based Groups Urge 'Arafat's 'Expulsion' *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Ministry on U.S.-Libyan Incident *[Algiers Radio]* 9

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Downing of Libyan Planes *[MENA]* 9
'Arafat Holds Talks With Mubarak in Cairo *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Views Region's 'New Trends' *[MENA]* 9
Departs Cairo *[MENA]* 10
Ties With Syria, Libya Said To Improve *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 31 Dec]* 10
Al-Baz on 'Uprising,' Ties With USSR, Syria *[MENA]* 10
Authorities Detain, Deport 2 Palestinian Youths *[AL-WAFD 3 Jan]* 11
Labor Leader Condemns U.S. 'Gangsterism' *[Cairo AL-SHA'B 27 Dec]* 11

Libya

People's Committee Statement on Plane Downing *[JANA]* 11
EEC Missions Asked To Seek U.S. Withdrawal *[JANA]* 11
Arab League Asked To Discuss U.S. 'Aggression' *[JANA]* 12
Al-Qadhdhafi's Tripoli Residence Fortified *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 12
Al-Qadhdhafi Informs Nonaligned Head of Downings *[JANA]* 12
Islamic Conference Informed of Downings *[JANA]* 12
Foreign Liaison Bureau Contacts OAU *[JANA]* 13
Arab Council Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 13
Envoy to Lebanon Reacts to 'U.S. Aggression' *[KUNA]* 13
Morocco's King Hassan II Affirms Solidarity *[Tripoli Radio]* 13
Arab Envoys Briefed on Clash; Aid Sought *[JANA]* 13

Commentary on U.S. Downing of Planes *[Tripoli Radio]* 13
Syrian Health Minister Visits Al-Rabitah Factory *[JANA]* 14
Comments on Factory Visit *[JANA]* 15
Al-Talih Cited on Ties with U.S. *[London AL-MAJALLAH 4-10 Jan]* 15
Pharmaceutical Industry Agreement Signed *[JANA]* 17
Opposition Spokesman on Chemical Plant *[London TV]* 17
Opposition Group on Finances, IRA Training *[MENA]* 18

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Polisario Representatives *[Algiers Radio]* 18

Sudan

Ruling Party Leaders on Democracy, Peace *[MENA]* 18
SUNA Employees To Begin 1-Week Strike 7 Jan *[MENA]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. 'Aggression' *[KUNA]* 20

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Affirms 'Solidarity' With Libyans *[SPA]* 20
UK Foreign Secretary Howe Departs 4 Jan *[SPA]* 20

United Arab Emirates

Papers Denounce U.S. 'Aggression' on Libya *[WAM]* 20
PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Abu Dhabi 5 Jan *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 21
Britain's Howe Arrives on Visit 4 Jan *[WAKH]* 21
Talks With Minister *[WAKH]* 21

Yemen Arab Republic

U.S. 'Provocative Act' Against Libya Denounced *[Sanaa Radio]* 22

IRAQ

Reaction to U.S. Downing of 2 Libyan Planes 23
Baghdad Radio Notes Downing 23
'Hasty Downing' Condemned *[INA]* 23
Paper Cited on Downing *[INA]* 23

ISRAEL

Peres, Shamir Aide React to Downing of Jets *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
Hungarian Leaders Exchange Letters With Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
AL-SHA'B on U.S. Accusations in Pan Am Crash *[30 Dec]* 24
AL-NAHAR: U.S. Diplomats Meet W. Bank Notables *[2 Jan]* 24
Frayj Denies 'Arafat 'Threat' Aimed at Him *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Minister Gur on Alignment Policy, Talks With PLO *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 26
1 Killed, 1 Hurt in Gaza Camp *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Details on Gaza Youth's Death *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
3 More Hurt in Incidents 4 Jan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Update on Clashes 4 Jan *[HADASHOT 5 Jan]* 26
Final Tabah Border Marker Put into Place *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Ambassador to Kenya Links Ties With Mideast Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

Ben-Shoshan Named New Defense Attache to U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Deqel Named Adviser on Settlement Affairs *[HATZOFE 4 Jan]* 27
Deqel: 3 New Settlements Planned for Gaza Strip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Prime Minister Favors Increasing Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Data Show Lowest Economic Growth Since 1982 *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Dec]* 28
Customs on U.S., EEC Goods Reduced; Tax Imposed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Devaluation Causes 'Steep Drop' in Reserves *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Foreign Investment 'Quadrupled' in 1988 *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Jan]* 29

LEBANON

Red Cross Seeks Shi'ite Guarantees for Return *[AFP]* 30
Birri Said Agreeing to Military Action in South *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 3 Jan]* 30
Syrian Forces Deploy Between Amal, Hizballah *[VOL]* 30
Clashes in South Abate; Amal Warns of More *[Beirut Radio]* 30
Hizballah Radio on Continued Fighting in South *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 31
17 Killed, 32 Wounded *[Voice of National Resistance]* 31
Lahd's Marj 'Uyun Headquarters Said Attacked *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Israeli Mechanized Concentrations Seen in South *[VOM]* 31
30 Communist Party Sympathizers Expelled *[VOL]* 31

SYRIA

Reaction to U.S. Downing of 2 Libyan Planes 32
Damascus Reports Downings 32
Al-Shar' Condemns 'Aggression' *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Paper Cited on 'Aggression' *[Damascus Radio]* 32
'Zionists' Said Behind Airline Bomb Threats *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Paper Cited on 'Palestinian Capitulation Line' *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 33

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Statement Issued on Vorontsov's Tehran Talks *[Kabul Radio]* 34
President Najibullah Receives Western Reporters *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Wakil Departs for Paris Chemical Weapons Meeting *[BAKHTAR]* 34
Najibullah Envoy Departs for Iraq, Kuwait *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Commerce Minister Holds Talks in Moscow *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Notes on Violations Submitted to UNGOMAP 35
Special Guard Commander on Cease-Fire *[BAKHTAR]* 35
Violations of Unilateral Cease-Fire Cited 35
Violations 1 Jan *[Kabul Radio]* 35
'Defensive' Operations 2 Jan *[Kabul Radio]* 36
Action on 3 Jan *[Kabul Radio]* 36
Violations in Provinces *[BAKHTAR]* 36
'Decisive Blows' Struck 4 Jan *[Kabul Radio]* 37
115 'Extremists' Killed in Mopping-Up Operations *[BAKHTAR]* 37
Kabul Police Uncover Weapons Cache *[Kabul Radio]* 37
New Party Newspaper PAYAM Makes Debut *[BAKHTAR]* 37

Bangladesh

Dhaka Reports U.S. Downing of Libyan Jets *[Dhaka Radio]* 38
Foreign Minister Comments on Visit to Iran *[AFP]* 38
Border Guards Detain 26 Burmese Nationals *[AFP]* 38

India

Government Officials Resign Over Violence, Murder *[Delhi Radio]* 39
5 Pakistani 'Intruders' Killed Near Border *[Delhi Radio]* 39

3 'Pakistan-Trained Militants' Arrested in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Security Forces Arrest 15 'Terrorists' in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Narora Atomic Power Unit To Start 'This Month' *[Delhi Radio]* 39

Iran

Foreign Ministry Official on Libyan Jet Downings *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Musavi Comments on U.S.-Libyan Incident *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Khamene'i Sends Solidarity Message to Al-Qadhdhafi *[IRNA]* 40
Delegation Delivers Imam's Message to Gorbachev 40
Ahmad Khomeyni Describes Letter *[Tehran TV]* 40
Delegation Meets Gorbachev *[Tehran TV]* 40
Delegation Returns From USSR *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Group Briefs Khomeyni *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Correction to Khamene'i-Vorontsov Meeting 41

Pakistan

Islamabad Reports U.S. Downing of Libyan Planes 41
Vorontsov Discusses Afghan Issue With Yaqub Khan *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Further Talks Held 5 Jan *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Peace Efforts 'Face Snags' *[AFP]* 42

Sri Lanka

Mahajana Party Wants Election Pact With LTTE *[AFP]* 43

5 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0501151389 [Editorial Report]

Libya

Reaction to Air Battle—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reacted to the downing of two Libyan jets by stressing that Libyan "revolutionaries" will "not bow their heads" but will "meet challenge with challenge," JANA reported.

"If the United States has prevailed because it is a superpower in the air and the sea, it will inevitably be defeated on land," the Libyan leader warned.

A Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA linked the shooting down of the MiG's with the U.S. naval buildup off the Libyan coast, adding that the "gigantic" U.S. military concentration is a "smoke screen" for an "extensive aggression" against Libyan economic and military installations.

The statement urged the international community to take action to halt the U.S. military exercises off the Libyan coast, and warned that Libya reserves its "legitimate right to self-defense."

A commentary by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio stated that Libya reserves the right to "choose the means" with which to respond to this "aggression."

On the diplomatic level, the Foreign Liaison Bureau called for emergency meetings of the UN Security Council and of Arab League foreign ministers to discuss the U.S. "aggression," JANA noted.

The Bureau told Arab ambassadors in Tripoli that there must be a unified Arab stance which should "rise to the level of the magnitude of the aggression."

Ambassadors of EEC member states were also summoned to the Bureau over the incident, JANA said.

The Arab League issued a statement in Tunis condemning the "very serious" U.S. action and warning that it will disturb current efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, MENA reported.

The statement urged the United States to stop its "provocative attacks" near the Libyan coast.

The ICO likewise deplored the U.S. action in a statement cited by SPA.

Among reaction by regional states, Algerian official statements expressed solidarity with Libya and accused the United States of searching for excuses to continue its "anti-Libyan" policy, according to Algiers radio.

A Tunisian spokesman denounced the U.S. action as a "serious escalation," Tunis radio noted.

The Syrian foreign minister likewise condemned the U.S. "aggression" in remarks reported by Damascus radio.

The Jordanian information minister told Radio Monte Carlo that his country expresses "solidarity with fraternal Libya."

Elsewhere in the region, a Saudi official cited by SPA expressed "regret" over the incident, expressed "solidarity" with the Libyan people, and urged "self-restraint."

Kuwait condemned the U.S. "aggression" in a statement carried by KUNA, adding that it supports Libya's right to self-defense by "legitimate means."

An Iraqi spokesman denounced the "hasty" downing of the MiG's as "strange and condemnable," INA noted.

Iran reacted in an official statement cited by Tehran radio, linking the incident with U.S. preparations for a "new aggression" against Libya and warning that this will have "dangerous consequences."

For the PLO, Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi said the "blatant aggression" by the United States will have "grave consequences" for the region, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

The clandestine Al-Quds radio carried a statement by PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril threatening to "punish the United States wherever it has interests" in retaliation for U.S. "state terrorism."

In Egypt, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid called on all parties to exercise restraint and urged that such acts should not be repeated, according to MENA.

As for Israel's reaction, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the incident is further proof that Libya has been "provoking" the United States, IDF radio reported.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres congratulated the U.S. Navy in remarks carried by the radio.

Soviet reaction included a commentary over Moscow radio's Arabic service which described the U.S. action as a "challenge" to world public opinion and "another indication" that the United States still intends to use force to solve disputes.

The United States "sneezed at its role as a superpower" by this act, which will not help the peaceful solution of conflicts in the Middle East, the radio said.

Military Preparations—TANJUG reported that Libya has responded to the U.S. naval buildup in the Mediterranean by fortifying Col al-Qadhdhafi's Tripoli residence with new batteries of antiaircraft missiles and by evacuating its warplanes to bases deep in the Sahara.

Libya has also asked the Soviet Union to send warships to the area of the upcoming U.S. maneuvers.

On the chemical weapons (CW) issue, DPA noted that Al-Qadhdhafi received an FRG envoy who was seeking the Libyan leader's views on a possible international inspection of the disputed factory in Al-Rabitah.

Libya's ambassador to France told Paris radio that Libya is ready to allow an "international verification commission" to inspect the plant.

The radio noted that Western journalists may visit the factory 5 January.

Israel

Defense/Foreign Policy—Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the Knesset in remarks broadcast by IDF radio that Israel is about to take "a series of measures" to stop chemical weapons proliferation in the Middle East.

The measures will include "steps that will be taken by the defense establishment."

On the Tabah issue, Netanyahu warned that the matter is "neither closed nor finished yet" as Israel still has "demands" and "positions."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by the radio confirmed that Israel will continue to retain the Tabah area pending an agreement with Egypt on the ownership and use of the tourist installations in the area.

Territories—One Arab youth was killed and three were injured in clashes with the IDF in the Gaza Strip 4 January, IDF radio noted.

The youth who died was among a group which attacked soldiers with firebombs.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told a rally in Cairo that the Palestinian uprising cannot be quelled and will continue in successive waves "until the Palestinian flag has been hoisted over Jerusalem's walls," MENA reported.

He warned that if the Israelis do not accept peace, he will "retreat and boldly say to the PNC: there is no use."

'Arafat also held talks with President Husni Mubarak in the Egyptian capital, Cairo radio noted.

Morocco-Polisario Talks

A Moroccan Information Ministry statement broadcast by Rabat radio announced that King Hassan II received the Polisario Front delegation in Marrakesh 4 January, adding that the two sides discussed the current situation in "our southern provinces" in light of the decision to hold a referendum.

Algiers radio stated that the talks focused on the UN peace plan for the Western Sahara, dealing in particular with truce arrangements, the exchange of prisoners, and the referendum on self-determination.

The radio noted that this was the first official meeting between the two sides after 13 years of war.

Saudi Arabia

The third secretary of the Saudi Embassy in Bangkok was shot dead by an unknown gunman 4 January, Bangkok television announced.

The 35-year-old diplomat was hit in the head and died on the spot.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported "complete calm" in the southern suburb of the capital as Syrian troops intensified their presence and consolidated security.

The Syrians have deployed between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen, establishing a "buffer zone," Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Despite the abatement of the clashes in Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio reported further fighting between the warring factions in Iqlim al-Tuffah early on 5 January.

Iranian-Soviet Relations

Commenting on the content of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Ahmad Khomeyni told Tehran television that his father had praised Gorbachev's "courage, boldness, and bravery" in promoting reform and facing up to world realities.

Indicating that the message welcomed Soviet moves to liberalize controls on Islam, Ahmad said the imam had stated that supporters of Islam "cried for joy" to hear the call of "God is Great" emanate from minarets in Soviet republics.

The message also informed Gorbachev that lack of spiritual conviction is the most fundamental illness his country faces and it debated differences between materialists and those who believe in God.

Ayatollah Javad Amoli, who delivered the message to the Soviet leader, stated in a Tehran radio interview that it was an "all-encompassing" message for the "salvation" of all societies, "especially the Soviet Union."

For the USSR's part, Gorbachev said the two countries' different political and ideological principles must not impede the development of bilateral relations, according to Moscow radio.

Now that Iran is entering a period of peace, favorable opportunities are opening up for dialogue on Soviet-Iranian relations and on major world problems, the Soviet leader stressed.

TASS cited a statement by a member of the Iranian delegation affirming that the main obstacles to improving bilateral relations have now been "eliminated."

Afghanistan

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov discussed the Afghan issue during talks with the Pakistani foreign minister in Islamabad on 4 and 5 January, Islamabad radio reported.

Meanwhile, leaders of the alliance of seven mujahidin parties based in Pakistan held talks with a visiting Afghan mujahidin delegation from Iran to formulate a common strategy for their upcoming meeting with Vorontsov, scheduled for 6 January.

A Moscow radio commentator stated that the Afghan factions based in Iran hold a "more constructive" and "more farsighted" position than that held by the "Peshawar seven," as the former do not exclude the idea of a broad-based coalition and of maintaining Afghanistan's "traditionally friendly" attitude toward the USSR.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Comments on Downing of Libyan Planes

NC0401174989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 4 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has described the U.S. downing of two Libyan planes as a "very serious" aggression emanating from the U.S. Government's wrong concept of its role in handling international problems.

A statement issued in Tunis today said that the new U.S. aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah disturbs the current efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and is a violation of the UN Charter and the obligations of the Security Council member states.

The statement noted that the Arab states, which only a few days ago declared their full solidarity with Libya in its defense of its sovereignty against U.S. threats, call upon the United States to stop its provocative attacks near the Libyan coast.

The statement warned against any stepping up of the confrontation with an Arab League member state and the dire consequences this will have on Arab-U.S. relations.

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to U.S. Downing of 2 Libyan Planes

Al-Quds Radio Reports Clash

JN0401143789 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1416 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] This is Al-Quds. Brother strugglers: U.S. sources say that the aircraft carrier "John Kennedy" has attacked the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and that U.S. aircraft clashed with Libyan aircraft. The U.S. sources said that two Libyan planes were shot down. The Libyan Jamahiriyah has so far not issued any announcements.

In a telephone conversation with the leaders of the 1 September revolution, Al-Quds radio learned that a statement will be issued by the Libyan leadership this evening.

God is with us, victory is near, together on the path of liberating the land and man.

Jibril Contacts Libyans

JN0401150589 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1440 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] This is Al-Quds. Brother strugglers: PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril has contacted the leadership of the Great 1 September Revolution in Tripoli following the flagrant U.S. aggression.

The brothers in the 1 September Revolution leadership said that the U.S. aggression has failed, just like all the previous U.S. aggressions. They said that the 1 September Revolution will be for the Arab nation, the Palestinian revolution, and our people's uprising. It will remain as always and will not fear the U.S. aggressions and planes. It will march ahead with the revolution.

The attempts of the United States and its allies will not succeed in forcing the 1 September Revolution to its knees or compel it to deviate from its course.

Indeed, the new U.S. aggressions against the Jamahiriyah will enhance its strength and reemphasize the correctness of its revolutionary line.

God is with us, victory is near, and together on the path of liberating the land and man.

Jibril To 'Punish' U.S.

JN0501105089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Commenting on the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril has made the following statement to ABC and VISNEWS: The military encroachment by the United States against Libya has many serious meanings:

1. The U.S. Administration, whether at the end of Reagan's term in office or during Bush's term, will seriously seek to escalate the situation to subdue the Arab nation in the interest of the Zionist entity and the U.S. policy.

2. The Reagan and Bush administrations through their provocation against the Libyan Jamahiriyah not only target Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi but also the Arab nation's will.

In the not too distant past, they tried to subdue the Islamic Republic in Iran. They now want to subdue Libya and tomorrow Syria. All these schemes seek to impose capitulation on the Arabs.

3. The state terrorism carried out by the United States against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is very serious.

We will punish the United States wherever it has interests. We will not leave Libya alone in this battle.

4. We are astonished at Reagan's impudence when he puts forth the story of the chemical weapons plant in Libya, while he supports and enhances nuclear technology in the Zionist entity.

This has enabled the enemy to possess nuclear bombs and it has started the production of long-range nuclear missiles to threaten the Arab and Islamic nation.

We see that Reagan observes silence on the nuclear threat and devotes his attention to a plant in Libya which has expressed its readiness to welcome an international investigation committee.

5. Reagan's conduct is an insult in broad daylight to the Arab rulers who are loyal to the United States. This attack will be the precursor to the popular revolution movement that will uproot America's rulers in the region.

Qaddumi Condemns 'Aggression'

JN0501112889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi has stated that the U.S. aggression against Libya is a blatant aggression and has grave consequences on the security and safety of the Middle East and on peace worldwide.

He added it would be more appropriate if the United States dealt in the same manner with Israel, its strategic ally which has been stockpiling nuclear and chemical weapons over the past years.

PLO's Khalid al-Hasan Interviewed on Crash

PM0401164989 London ITV Television Network in English 1900 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan by foreign affairs correspondent David Smith in London on 3 January, also incorporating comments from G. Joffe of the ECONOMIST intelligence unit; from Channel 4 News report on Pan Am crash investigation—recorded]

[Text] [Smith] So what do 'Arafat and the PLO believe? And what kind of help can they offer? Today we spoke to Khalid al-Hasan, one of the founders of the PLO and 'Arafat's most senior adviser.

[Al-Hasan] I think the PLO is ready to help, but that doesn't mean like the director of the FBI said that 'Arafat has a wealth of information. I mean that it doesn't mean that we have a file, we pick it up and give it to the Americans and say "Well, it was done this way by this one, so and so."

[Smith] What is 'Arafat going to do if it turns out that a Palestinian group was responsible? Typically, Abu Nidal.

[Al-Hasan] I doubt that Abu Nidal will do also will do it. [sentence as heard] Abu Nidal won't do something like that.

[Smith] Why?

[Al-Hasan] Because they are Americans. If you go to the record of Abu Nidal, it was always against Israelis and against Palestinians, but not against Americans, people [as heard]. It's, I mean, all those who are under the protection of any of the Arab governments, we can do nothing to them. If 'Arafat can get hold of them, he would put them in front of the court.

[Smith] Would he not hand them over to the Americans or the British if they wanted to put them on trial?

[Al-Hasan] I don't think so. Why? If he got them, he has to, I mean if they are Palestinians and he got them, he has to put them in front of the Palestinian court.

[Smith] Do you believe that this was the work of Palestinians who want to scupper what you and the PLO are trying to do?

[Al-Hasan] I don't see any organization who is up to the standard of doing what was done, if it is a bomb. And if it is that kind of technology that they are talking about on the TV, there must be either a government or a highly experienced secret branch somewhere.

[Smith] If that's the case and Pan Am was the work of a government, then it's clear the Americans may look no further than Libya's Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, "the mad dog of the Middle East," as Ronald Reagan once called him.

There's no evidence at all that Al-Qadhdhafi was behind the attack. But in the past few days, the Americans have chosen significantly to make an issue out of a chemical plant being built by Al-Qadhdhafi in Libya.

Washington says it will produce nerve gas. The Libyans say it is a pharmaceutical factory. The plant, at Al-Rabitah, south of Tripoli, is now a potential target in American eyes for two reasons: one, because of chemical weapons; and two, because Al-Qadhdhafi has helped terrorist groups in the past.

Of the three groups suspected of the Pan Am attack, for example, two have Libyan support. Ahmad Jibril has been funded by Al-Qadhdhafi ever since he left Lebanon in 1984. And Abu Nidal is now believed to be based in Libya and to enjoy safe haven there.

[Joffe] It's been very interesting to note, since the Pan Am plane came down at Lockerbie, that the Americans have begun to encourage the idea that the financing for groups that could have been involved could well have come from Libya, rather than from the other sources in the Middle East, such as Syria and Iran, as in the past.

Now that would suggest that perhaps the two issues, both of the gas plant and of the bombing, could be united in the American eye, so that retaliation against Libya would serve a dual purpose—both of removing the gas plant and of avenging the bombing.

[Smith] It's a measure of the nervousness felt by America's allies that a number of governments, including Britain, have already warned the Reagan administration not to repeat the 1986 bombing of Libya, whatever the pretext and whatever the evidence.

The first casualty, they believe, would be the new peace process in the Middle East, the dialogue between the Americans and the PLO now under way in Tunis. Today the PLO said there was no reason for the Americans to take revenge.

[Al-Hasan] I don't think so, and I don't think it should because peace in the Middle East is something much, much, much more than anything else. And here, although I disagree too much with Mrs Thatcher, but I was very impressed when she said, "No revenge, but justice."

[Smith] As the dead from Lockerbie come home, the pressure will no doubt grow for the Reagan administration to seek a quick revenge. And Libya may be a target of convenience, a target that can be justified. But its stake this time is not just American pride, but America's chances of being an honest broker in the Middle East.

'Arafat Addresses Riyadh Ceremony on 'Uprising'

JN0401205388 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 Jan 89 p 28

[As quotation marks as published]

[Text] Riyadh—KUNA—Yasir 'Arafat has said that "nobody can stop the uprising and any Palestinian leader who calls for stopping it will expose himself to our people's bullets." In a speech he delivered at the ceremony held by the ambassador of the State of Palestine to Saudi Arabia on the 24th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian revolution, Yasir 'Arafat said that the uprising will continue until the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territory is achieved.

In his speech, 'Arafat affirmed that the PLO does not offer the peace of a weak people but the peace of Saladin. He added that when I went to the United Nations in 1974, I said to them that I came with an olive branch in one hand and the rifle in the other.

'Arafat added: "I now offer to them the peace of Saladin. I repeated this offer for peace in Geneva and our PNC also made this offer in Algeria." He added that what he said in Strasbourg, Algeria, and Harare was what he had said in Fes. He said: "We have a firm line of action."

'Arafat noted that situations have changed and these situations should be understood. He said that the Palestinian-American dialogue did not come out from a vacuum and it is not the first dialogue of its kind.

'Arafat described the past years as "the years of fire and flames." He noted that the PLO was exposed to divisions as a result of the enemy's plans. "But God has made their designs rebound."

'Arafat added: We met in Amman. And I thank King Husayn because he gave me a venue for the meeting. In that meeting we were able to safeguard the structure of the PLO as we were waging a 6-year fierce battle in southern Lebanon—the war of attrition. He affirmed that the battle being waged by the PLO and the Palestinian people is a long one.

Yasir 'Arafat asserted that the current wave of the uprising will continue. He said: "We will not trade with it. And I said at the press conference in Geneva that neither 'Arafat nor any leader can stop the uprising."

'Arafat was responding in this to proposals by some moderate Palestinian quarters on holding negotiations to stop the uprising in exchange for the release of some Palestinian detainees and the stoppage of deporting some Palestinian strugglers from the occupied territory by the occupation authorities.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj announced on Friday that he supports a UN-supervised truce in the occupied territory after which municipal elections might be held.

'Arafat noted that the PLO is aware of the changes in the world. He said: "We are not closed, but we realize that there is an international detente."

'Arafat reviewed in his speech the international breakthroughs in most of the major issues in the world and the meetings and discussions that were held to find solutions and ways out.

Yasir 'Arafat said: "We offered them Saladin's reconciliation. And it is not from a weak position. If they come, they are welcome, and if they do not, come the battlefield is open."

'Arafat affirmed that Israel rejects peace, wants the region to live in the no-peace, no-war state, and rejects the Palestinians' right to a state.

Meanwhile, an informed Palestinian source in Amman said 'Arafat is expected to arrive in the Jordanian capital on Saturday to hold talks on the Middle East and ways to reinforce the common Arab action.

VOL Cites 'Arafat Remarks

NC0401211689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has asserted, in remarks he made in Riyadh last night, that no one will be able to stop the uprising.

He said that every Palestinian official who calls for stopping it will expose himself to our people's bullets. [wa qal inna kull mas'ul filastini yad'u ila waqfiha yu'arridu nafsahu li rasas sha'bina]

He emphasized that the uprising will continue until the Israeli forces withdraw from the occupied territories. 'Arafat was making a speech on the 24th anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian armed struggle.

Fatah's Salah Khalaf Holds News Conference

JN0401211188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Manama, 4 Jan (WAKH)—A high-ranking Palestinian official has said that the continuation of the valiant uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the escalation of the Palestinian political stance in particular, and the Arab stand in general were the most important factors that prompted the United States to change its stand and launch a direct dialogue with the PLO.

In a news conference held here today, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, said the PLO welcomes any positive step by any international party and added: "We also believe that the dialogue between us and the United States must be exploited to the last moment".

In his statements to reporters, Abu Iyad indicated that the U.S. stand is biased toward Israel. He added: "Now that this step toward the PLO has been taken, we will attempt to develop this step to turn this U.S. stand from a biased one to a neutral one at least".

Khalaf went on to say: "We believe that a U.S. approval of and strong convictions regarding an international peace conference are essential for the convening of this conference. We do not desire anything other than a neutral U.S. stance to convene the international conference".

Abu Iyad affirmed that world public opinion is not only won by political and diplomatic action. He said that the effects of the heroic action inside the occupied territories and the continuation of the armed struggle are the two main factors that are decisive in bringing about changes in stands and also in finding a solution.

On the possibility of seeing the United States take some measures to bring about an Israeli leniency regarding the launching of a dialogue, Salah Khalaf said that if it maintains a neutral stance militarily, politically, and financially, the United States can bring pressure to bear on Israel through the employment of various means to bring about the convening of the international conference.

On the incident involving the Pan Am crash, Salah Khalaf accused the Israeli Mosad of perpetrating this incident "as Israel is the only party that stands to benefit from this act. Prior to the incident, we announced that Israel might resort to the perpetration of mysterious terrorist operations with the aim of sabotaging diplomatic moves" pertaining to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

Khalaf added that the PLO announced its denunciation of the incident and expressed its readiness to exchange information on the terrorist act so that there can be no doubts about the Arab stance. He went on to say that no tangible translation for this readiness has materialized so far.

On the accusations leveled against the Palestinian organizations and groups that they are involved in the incident, Abu Iyad said there is no proof to confirm this involvement and added that the whole thing is the product of analysis. He went on to say: "However, we voiced our readiness to announce the identity of the party responsible for the incident if it were to be unveiled."

On the news reports being circulated to the effect that the United States might attack a plant in Libya alleging it is a chemical weapons production plant, Abu Iyad said the PLO will stand with all firmness against any U.S. aggression against Libya.

On armed struggle inside the occupied territories, the Fatah Central Committee member said armed struggle will be restricted to areas in the occupied territories and will not be carried outside the occupied territories, "as we consider any armed act outside these territories as a terrorist act that conflicts with the resolutions adopted by the PLO, which does not advocate or approve of the implementation of any such acts outside the occupied territories".

Salah Khalaf condemned the elections which, according to news reports, will be proposed by Israel within the framework of a peace initiative to be launched by the Zionist prime minister and said that these elections are an Israeli gimmick designed to end the uprising.

He pointed out: "We would approve of these elections if they were to be part of a durable solution in the occupied territories."

On the other hand, Abu Iyad said that he today held talks with Bahraini officials. He said that he reviewed with them the latest developments of the Palestine question, the PLO's political and diplomatic moves on the Arab and international levels, and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in light of the continuation of the valiant uprising being staged by the Palestinian people against the Zionist occupation.

Khalaf added: "We were pleased by the decision taken by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, to upgrade the status of the PLO's office in Bahrain to an embassy level. This is not something strange, as Bahrain provides daily support, backing, and assistance to the Palestine question and the PLO's political moves, particularly after the adoption of the recent PNC resolutions. Bahrain was in the forefront of the states that recognized the Palestinian state and turned the PLO's office into an embassy".

Abu Iyad went on to say that he held intensive talks with His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of the State of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister, on the recent developments of the Palestine question in view of the new givens and affirmed that Bahraini-Palestinian relations are proceeding in the best possible manner.

Hurani on Elections in Territories, USSR Ties

JN0401175189 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, has affirmed that the PLO can stop any elections to be conducted by the Zionist occupation authorities to elect representatives for the Palestinians apart from the PLO.

Brother Hurani added that the PLO rejects the idea of self-rule or elections in the occupied territory. Therefore, he said, it is natural for the Palestinians also to reject this, as the PLO is their representative.

In a statement published in Cairo today, Hurani said there is optimisim about convening an international peace conference on the Middle East this year. He noted that this requires the convening of an Arab summit to use Arab influence and power.

On relations between the PLO and the USSR, the Palestinian official said this relationship is passing through the highest levels of understanding and interaction. He noted that coordination between the two sides has never reached this level before.

Syrian-Based Groups Urge 'Arafat's 'Expulsion'
JN0501135889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The anti-'Arafat Palestinian organizations held a meeting in Damascus yesterday. These organizations issued a statement after the meeting in which they condemned the calls for a truce in the occupied Arab territory.

They also called for the expulsion of the defeatist leadership of the PLO, hinting at Yasir 'Arafat's leadership.

The conferees expressed their abidance by the National Palestinian Charter. The statement says that the calls for stopping the uprising in the occupied territory stem from the deviant leadership of the PLO.

The statement says that the proposals on the truce constitute a real threat to the uprising.

The following organizations participated in the Damascus meeting: Al-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-GC, Fatah-the Provisional Command, the Arab Popular Liberation Front, and the Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party.

Algeria

Foreign Ministry on U.S.-Libyan Incident

LD0401202089 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Following the U.S. aggression against Libya, the Algerian Foreign Ministry issued a statement which said in part:

Algeria has been following with increasing concern the U.S. threats to carry out a military aggression against Libya and that the implementation of these hostile threats constitutes a source of lack of security and destabilization of the Maghreb arena and the Mediterranean.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry statement also says: Algeria expresses its complete solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah and at the same time it is embarking on relentless international action for the removal of the causes of tension and averting an escalation of military action in the Mediterranean.

The FLN secretariat also in a statement denounced the U.S. behavior following the shooting down two Libyan aircraft by the U.S. fleet sailing the Mediterranean.

The statement said: Whatever the justifications of this grave behavior, it has become clear that the U.S. is searching for excuses for continuing its anti-Libyan policy.

The statement explained that these serious developments totally contradict the role and the responsibility of a great power who is a Security Council member. There is nothing at all that can permit any state, however it might want to install itself, to act as a substitute for international organizations and institutions which have been given the task by the international community to safeguard peace and security in the world and the task of solving problems among the members of the international community through means approved by the UN organization.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Downing of Libyan Planes

NC0501081689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0752 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that Egypt does not approve of any escalation of violence in the region.

Commenting on the U.S. downing of two Libyan planes yesterday, 'Abd al-Majid called on all parties to exercise restraint. He also urged that this act should not be repeated.

In a statement prior to his departure for Paris this morning, 'Abd al-Majid noted that this is Egypt's principled stand and that "we do not know the details or who started the incident."

'Arafat Holds Talks With Mubarak in Cairo

NC0401131689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] At the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo early this morning. The two leaders held a session of bilateral talks.

Views Region's 'New Trends'

NC0401165489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (Mena)—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that Egypt's return to the Arabs and the Arabs' return to Egypt have produced new changes in the international and Arab arenas and created the new trends, now seen in the region.

In his speech at a rally organized by the Egyptian Trade Union Federation today marking the Palestinian revolution's anniversary, 'Arafat stressed that the Palestinian uprising cannot be quelled and that it will continue until victory has been achieved and Palestinian flags have been hoisted over Jerusalem.

He said: I repeat that we want the peace of Saladin—a peace of strength, not of weakness. He added, hinting at Israel: If they do not accept peace, then I will retreat and boldly say to the PNC: There is no use.

In his speech, 'Arafat thanked President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people for their stand of support and backing for the Palestinian cause, saying: While I am in the bosom of Egypt's workers, I tell the children, students, workers, and women of stones in our occupied land that Egypt and the entire Arab nation are with you until victory. 'Arafat pointed out that Israel cannot realize her long-standing dream to expand from the Nile to the Euphrates and noted that this will not bring about security for her.

He stressed that the recent wave of the Palestinian revolution's uprising has been the most comprehensive and strong and that the uprising will continue in waves, one after another, until the Palestinian flag has been hoisted over Jerusalem's walls. The Palestinian leader said he will continue to call loudly for peace from the position of strength and that no one can terminate the Palestinian uprising.

He noted that Israel had previously rejected peace offers because the Arab nation was then in a weak position. Now, he added, the Arab nation is living in a different situation, and new changes have emerged on earth, the most prominent of which are the Palestinian uprising, the return of Egypt to the Arabs and the Arabs to Egypt, the Iraqi victory, and the legendary Palestinian steadfastness in southern Lebanon, all of which have upset the balance and created changes.

'Arafat remarked that these moments are the most crucial in the history of the Palestinian revolution, noting that the majority of the uprising's martyrs are workers of Palestine.

He emphasized that the Palestinian state will be a democratic one in the true sense of the word, explaining this is because we cannot vanquish our rivals unless we exercise democracy and show them civilization and the great Arab heritage. He pointed out that the 154 votes at the United Nations in favor of the Palestinian cause constitute a victory for strenth and right.

Departs Cairo

NC0501065089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this morning, following a 2-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. He also attended the Egyptian Trade Union Federation's celebrations marking the 24th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian revolution and the 1st anniversary of the uprising in the occupied territories.

'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department, PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah, and members of the PLO office in Cairo.

Ties With Syria, Libya Said To Improve

JN0101153489 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 31 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo—A responsible source in the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has asserted to AL-WATAN that Cairo is now holding important consultations to clear the atmosphere of inter-Arab relations and end differences between Egypt and some states. Egypt has expressed to these states its continued welcome of any Arab effort to unify the ranks at this particular time when the Palestine question is at the head of Arab concerns.

The source said the coming phase will witness great detente in inter-Arab relations. The years of inter-Arab estrangement are expected to end once and for all, particularly after the success of the great efforts exerted by King Husayn of Jordan in filling the gap between Cairo and Damascus. These efforts have also resulted in a halt to media campaigns. Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat also exerted great efforts which resulted in much improvement in Egyptian-Libyan relations in the past few weeks.

Al-Baz on 'Uprising,' Ties With USSR, Syria

NC0401225489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—In an interview with the Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday, Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs, has asserted that the Egyptian role, particularly that of President Husni Mubarak, in the Arab and international arenas has had an impact on directing the peace process toward its correct objectives. He added that Egypt's role has revealed the position of Egypt as a key state, which employs a conscious and prudent policy toward peace. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Palestinian uprising, Al-Baz said it has been one of the most prominent landmarks in the course of the Palestinian struggle, noting that the uprising had brought down the claims by certain circles that the Palestinian people are living contentedly under the Israeli occupation.

He said that the Palestinian people inside [the occupied territories] have shown great conscientiousness by not using firearms in resisting the occupation and by confining their moves to strong protests against the continuation of the Israeli occupation. No people in the world can deny them this practice because it falls within the context of the Palestinian people's right to lawful and legitimate resistance.

On the recent Israeli election, Al-Baz said its outcome does not differ from the previous arrangement as the situation is still unsettled. This election, he added, did not settle the fundamental problems and issues in Israel, either on the foreign scene or domestically. It did not decide on the peace process or the domestic issues relating to economic and religious problems.

He voiced his belief that the new Israeli government may resort to certain superficial games, with a view to making Israel appear as if it were setting forth alternative initiatives. But the true aim, he added, is to divert attention from the Palestinian peace onslaught by forwarding other known and obvious initiatives, all of which will fail.

On President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union this year, Dr al-Baz pointed out that there are no arrangements with regard to this visit, asserting that relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union are good and developing and denying the existence of any problems between the two countries. He remarked that there is nothing that might impede such a visit; however, no preparation is currently under way for the visit.

On the mediation between Egypt and Syria, especially since Syria does not object to the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, Al-Baz disclosed that there is no mediation between the two countries in legal and political terms. But thanks are due to Jordan, which is clearing the Arab atmosphere in various fields.

Commenting on Egyptian-Libyan relations, particularly after the opening of Egyptian air space to Libyan aircraft, Al-Baz asserted: There is no dispute or contradiction with regard to the interests of the Libyan and Egyptian peoples, and we cannot consider Libya our rival. It is true that differences do exist on certain policies. However, there must be a minimum level of relations among neighboring Arab states, and good neighborliness is most important.

In conclusion, Al-Baz voiced his expectation that a new Arab summit conference will be held during the first quarter of this year. He pointed out that there are numerous issues and feeling of Arab leaders and officials as well

as of the public opinion on the importance of the need to discuss such issues. He said that this summit conference will be held whether as an extraordinary conference or regular one and that Egypt will take part in it.

Authorities Detain, Deport 2 Palestinian Youths

JN0401184589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] The state security intelligence organs at Cairo airport have deported two Palestinian uprising figures who had been deported from Palestine.

The Progressive Youth Union [ittihad al-shabab al-taqaddumi] had invited the two Palestinian youths to attend the 1st anniversary celebration of the uprising, but airport detectives detained them and prevented them from entering the country.

A decision to deport them from Egypt was issued the next day. The Progressive Youth Union has issued a statement deploring the government's attitude toward the two Palestinian strugglers.

Labor Leader Condemns U.S. 'Gangsterism'

PM0401113189 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Dec 88 pp 1-4

[Ahmad Mustafa report: "Our Party Urges Unified Arab Stand Against U.S. Threats to Libya"]

[Excerpt] [Socialist] Labor Party and opposition leader Ibrahim Shukri has stated that U.S. threats to the Libyan Jamahiriyah are amazing gangsterism in international relations. And it seems as if the United States is determined to blacken its face in our Arab and Islamic region. It has just gone back on some of its attitudes toward the PLO only to return with threats of military aggression against fraternal Libya. Shukri emphasized that both our party and our people oppose this threat and urge a resolute and unified Arab stand to deter the aggressors.

The OAU has condemned U.S. threats to Libya. The Arab League expressed concern and warned the United States about any aggression against Libya.

Libya submitted a complaint to the UN secretary general about the campaign unleashed against it by the Reagan administration and the threat to carry out an aggressive act against it. [passage omitted]

Libya

People's Committee Statement on Plane Downing

LD0401174689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has today issued a statement, the text of which follows:

1. The United States has this morning committed a new, premeditated direct attack against the Great Jamahiriyah by committing its aircraft to shooting down two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft—which were carrying out normal reconnaissance duties—over international waters.

2. This premeditated aggression was preceded by U.S. reinforcement of its Sixth Fleet and military concentration in the Mediterranean by moving a huge naval force, including 83 naval units, the nuclear aircraft-carrier Roosevelt, and a 12,000 strong landing force.

It also announced the dispatching of this naval force by staging military exercises opposite the Libyan coast.

3. This barbaric military concentration was accompanied by U.S. threats to attack the Jamahiriyah and to strike at specific targets in it under pretexts and excuses which have been rejected and condemned by world public opinion.

4. This gigantic U.S. military concentration in the Mediterranean is but a smoke screen concealing the fact which should be clear to the world—to carry out an extensive aggression on the Jamahiriyah aiming at its economic and military installations.

To claim to stage ordinary exercises in fact strengthens the decision of the U.S. Administration to carry out an aggression more than it weakens it. This is confirmed by the statements made by officials in the U.S. Administration and which did not conceal their intention to carry out the aggression in any circumstances and under any pretext.

5. The Great Jamahiriyah—while being subjected to a repeated aggression by the U.S. Administration—calls on the international community—with all its organizations, and international and regional bodies—to shoulder its responsibilities and move quickly along the following:

First: To halt the military exercises being staged by the United States opposite the Libyan coast and the withdrawal of U.S. military concentration because the presence of the latter is for aggressive purposes and not for exercises.

Second: That the international community should shoulder its responsibilities in halting the U.S. aggression on the Jamahiriyah because it is an aggression being carried out against a peaceful people, threatens peace in the Mediterranean, and subjects world security and peace to danger.

6. The Libyan Arab people, while facing an imposed tyrannical aggression by a superpower, reserve the right to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense and in defense of its existence.

EEC Missions Asked To Seek U.S. Withdrawal

LD0401192689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1856 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this evening summoned the heads of diplomatic missions of EEC member states accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah.

It told them of the danger of the situation resulting from the premeditated U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah as manifested in the downing of two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft on a routine reconnaissance mission. It entrusted them with a special responsibility to condemn the aggression, prevent it from continuing and escalating and work toward the withdrawal of U.S. military forces massed in the region in order to preserve security and peace, not only in the Mediterranean Sea, but in the entire world.

Arab League Asked To Discuss U.S. 'Aggression'

LD0401171289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has asked the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab League to hold an emergency and extraordinary meeting at the level of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the U.S. aggression against the Arab Libyan Air Force Aircraft, two of which were shot down today while they were on an ordinary reconnaissance mission.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Tripoli Residence Fortified

LD0401143389 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1355 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Report by Dejan Lukic, TANJUG correspondent in Libya]

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (TANJUG)—Here the news that the Americans have downed two Libyan fighter planes has been neither confirmed not denied. It is stressed in Tripoli that a U.S. aircraft carrier and several other ships are in the Mediterranean near Libyan territorial waters.

This is seen in Tripoli as a clear indication that Washington is planning a new armed action on the Jamahiriyah. The military and political leadership of Libya notes that the outlines are forming of a scenario which is identical to the one of April when the U.S. attack on Tripoli and Benghazi was being prepared.

The scenario is accompanied, it is noted, by the same propaganda campaign, consultations with the Western allies, movement of the fleet in the Mediterranean, and the same official claim that this is a case of "routine" maneuvers.

In connection with this development the Libyan leadership has made every preparation in the country in expectation of further events. Military and civilian airfields, strategic facilities, and vital installations have received fresh armed reinforcements. Movement on the streets and main highways is controlled by armed guards, activists of the revolutionary committee, the army and the police.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's residence in Tripoli has been transformed into a real fortress. Fresh tank and anti-aircraft reinforcements have been deployed. On the roof of the residential barracks additional anti-aircraft gun nests have been set up. The Libyan leader's house is being guarded by new batteries of French Crotal anti-aircraft missiles deployed at surrounding hills, parks, and reinforced sites.

In addition to usual defense measures there are now machineguns outside the main entrance while the traffic in surrounding streets is being regulated not by regular traffic police but by Al-Qadhdhafi's personal guard.

TANJUG correspondent has also learned that in addition to the above measures Col Al-Qadhdhafi has decided to carry out some reorganization in the Libyan military command. According to these reports it is questionable if Colonel Yunis Jabir, current commander of the Libyan Armed Forces, will remain in this commanding post. According to some, usually well-informed circles, it is claimed that he no longer holds this post.

On the other hand, independent sources in Tripoli maintain that the Libyan command, on hearing news about the new movements by the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean, ordered the evacuation of all military airports in the vicinity of the Mediterranean coast and the transfer of warplanes to airports "deep" in the Sahara, a scheme applied by the United States on the Jamahiriyah in 1986. It has also been learned that the Military Command has called to arms new groups of military conscripts. Finally reliable sources possess information that the Libyan leader, on hearing the news about the U.S. movements in the Mediterranean, requested of Moscow that it send parts of its Mediterranean fleet into the region of the forthcoming U.S. maneuvres, so as to prevent a direct Libyan-U.S. clash which could serve as an excuse for a fresh U.S. (and possibly Israeli) attack on vital targets in the Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Informs Nonaligned Head of Downings

LD0401192589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution today addressed a message to the president of Zimbabwe and current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, informing him of the premeditated U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah and the U.S. aircraft's interception of two Libyan reconnaissance airplanes over international waters, which were on an ordinary reconnaissance mission.

The brother leader in this message warned the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement against the U.S. military moves in the region, the threat they constitute to the countries of the Mediterranean basin and to world security and peace, and urged him to put an end to the aggression and prevent its continuation.

Islamic Conference Informed of Downings

LD0401200689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1935 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has sent a message today to the secretary of the Islamic Conference Organization informing him of the dangerous developments in the Mediterranean basin and the U.S. aggression against two Libyan aircraft on a reconnaissance mission. He also urged him to shoulder his responsibility in accordance with the charter of the ICO and the spirit of Islamic solidarity.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Contacts OAU

LD0401201289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1932 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison today sent a message to the OAU secretary general to inform him of the dangerous developments taking place in the region following the blatant U.S. attack on two Libyan aircraft that were on a reconnaissance mission.

The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison expressed his confidence in the solidarity and support of the African peoples for the Great Jamahiriyah in the defense of Africa's dignity and independence. He also expressed his conviction that the OAU secretary general would do his utmost to stop this aggression and prevent it from expanding and continuing.

Arab Council Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0401201689 Tripoli Jana in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan, (JANA)—The Permanent Secretary of the Arab People's Congress and the Council of Delegates have condemned the blatant U.S. aggression on the two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft which were on a reconnaissance mission. The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress and the Council of Delegates have sent the following message to the brother leader of the revolution:

To you the brother leader, who are standing steadfast and challenging the arrogance and haughtiness of U.S. imperialism, we express our total solidarity and the readiness of our forces and political organizations to stand by you and be part of the Libyan Arab people's brave confrontation of the U.S. imperialist and tyrannical aggression, to teach the latter a lesson it will not forget.

The message continues: We the Arab popular forces, parties, and organizations affirm to you, brother of the revolution, our commitment to you and to the Libyan Arab people in the defense of the territory of the Great Jamahiriyah and its achievements.

Envoy to Lebanon Reacts to 'U.S. Aggression'

LD0401213689 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, 4 Jan, KUNA—The [word indistinct] of the Libyan Fraternity Bureau in Lebanon, 'Ashur al-Furtas, accused the United States of massing its naval fleets off the Libyan shores to provoke his country. Al-Furtas, who is his country's ambassador in Beirut, told reporters this afternoon as a comment on the confrontation between Libya and U.S. planes that the real mission of the U.S. fleets has become clear through this provocation, which is similar to what happened 2 years ago and affected Benghazi and Tripoli. [passage omitted]

This incident comes following U.S. accusations that the Libyan Government is building a factory for chemical weapons on its soil. Libya rejected these claims and said the factory was a medicines factory. Al-Furtas said "the U.S. aggression falls within the context of the campaign preparing for the expected real aggression." He said today's incident resembled what happened 2 years ago when U.S. aircraft shot down two Libyan planes over Libyan territorial waters. [passage omitted]

Morocco's King Hassan II Affirms Solidarity

LD0501013989 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] King Hassan II of Morocco had a telephone conversation last night with the brother leader of the revolution. King Hassan II affirmed the solidarity of the Arab people in Morocco with their brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting U.S. aggression.

King Hassan II also hailed the bravery and courage of the Libyan Arab air eagles and expressed his support and greetings to the Libyan Arab Air Force, which courageously confronted the aggression.

Arab Envoys Briefed on Clash; Aid Sought

LD0501081289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jan (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has summoned the ambassadors of the Arab countries accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah and provided them with details of the aggression carried out yesterday morning by the United States against the Great Jamahiriyah.

The People's Committee stressed to the ambassadors the necessity that the unified Arab stance should rise to the level of the magnitude of the aggression which the United States embarked upon. The committee told the ambassadors of the necessity of holding an emergency session of the Arab League Foreign Ministers' Council to adopt collective measures for defense and to participate with the Libyan Arab people in the defense of its land and existence.

The committee asked the Arab League Council to apply the provisions of the Arab Joint Defense Agreement and the principle of collective defense to protect the Arab nation's national security which is being threatened by the United States' aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah.

Commentary on U.S. Downing of Planes

NC0501075189 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] At these critical moments when the United States has elevated the degree of tension off the Libyan coasts to the extent of launching the direct premeditated aggression during which its missiles downed two of our reconnaissance aircraft while they were performing a routine reconnaissance mission near the Arab Libyan waters, at these critical moments one is forced to request the

international community to stand witness to this tense atmosphere which the United States insists on creating in the face of a small Arab country.

This small country is seeking peace in all its efforts and stands. It is a country which is trying to build itself and to carry out its mission in the history of its nation, and at the same time to contribute greatly in building the civilization of mankind, in boosting international cooperation among nations, and in rescuing the world from the ordeals of tension and provocation and the methods of cold and hot wars alike.

The United States cannot absolve itself from its premeditated intentions of aggression against the people of the Jamahiriyah, which have extended to threats against the Jamahiriyah. This has been poignantly evident in the United States dispatching to the Mediterranean for deployment off the Libyan coasts its fleet of 13 naval units, a nuclear-powered antiaircraft carrier "Roosevelt," and a landing force made up of 12,000 soldiers.

The United States had claimed that all these barbaric military concentrations were on a normal routine mission being conducted by the U.S. Navy. The Great Jamahiriyah was never deceived by such U.S. statements. The Great Jamahiriyah knew that such statements were merely smoke concealing the intention to carry out a savage aggression against the Arab Libyan people who are living in peace on their land and who neither harbor evil toward anyone nor harbor the intention of aggression against anyone.

The U.S. escalatory step which was represented in the aggression against and the downing of the Libyan reconnaissance aircraft reveals unequivocal evidence, challenges the international community and world public, and flouts all norms, charters, and laws which incriminate all such unlawful methods.

The flexing of muscles in such a treacherous, barbaric, and deceptive manner presents new proof to the world conscience that the United States alone, with its fleets and destructive means, threatens peace, encroaches on the peoples' rights, and uses barbaric terrorist methods in an attempt to place the entire globe under its savage shoes.

But will U.S. terrorism, regardless of its extent, be able to subjugate the revolutionaries to its oppressive willpower? All the lessons of history confirm that this is pure imagination supported by treacherous force. The revolutionaries at such critical moments only become more determined and more committed to their historic options, which aim to unite the Arab nation, build its glory, and liberate its usurped land.

Perhaps the United States does not know, or it does not want to know, that the empires of expansion and tyranny at all stages of history were defeated by revolutionaries and by the will of nations, which are small in number but armed with faith and determination to defend their honor, options, and gains. If the United States enjoys superiority in the sea and in the air because it is a superpower in this world, the small nations will defend their land until blood stops circulating in the veins of their sons' foreheads and until the last bullet and last man.

When struggle rages, the devout people will raise their heads high and storm the battlefield as brave men. They will never be cowards in fighting their enemy. The flag under which the Arab Libyan masses will fight is the banner of honor and dignity, because at these moments they will boldly defend their historic options and gains. They will all be armed with faith in freedom as their course, stemming from their Arab nobility and human affiliation that reject humiliation, slavery, and subjugation to enemies.

At these moments when the United States has chosen to elevate the degree of tension, the Arab Libyan masses continue to exercise wisdom in the face of the irresponsible U.S. decisions to launch the aggression, flex its muscles, and carry out acts of provocation, all of which demonstrate a triviality of thinking and a disregard for the world conscience and the civilized international community.

Therefore, the international community is requested to shoulder its historical responsibility in stopping this direct premeditated aggression before events develop to the point of no return. The Arab masses in Libya appeal to all international community bodies, organizations, and political circles, as well as to all devout and free men and the forces which struggle for the sake of establishing peace, to take up their responsibility in forcing the United States to stop its maneuvers off the Arab Libyan coasts and to stop its bestial aggression which constitutes a crime to be added to the previous crimes that the United States has committed against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

We cling to our legitimate right to defend our land and our gains, and to our right to build our entity whose type and method has been defined by our free will. We reserve our right to choose the means in which we will respond to this aggression and to this U.S. disregard and self-deception. But, while we decide to wage the battle of challenge with honor, dignity, and bravery, we want the international community to be well aware of what is taking place at these critical moments.

Syrian Health Minister Visits Al-Rabitah Factory

LD0401165389 Tripoli JANA in English 1636 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Rabitah, Ayy al-Nar 4 [4 January] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr M. Al-Shatti, the minister of health of sisterly Syria, and Dr. A.M. al-Hafiz, the secretary general of the Association of Arab Pharmacists, have visited the pharmaceutical factory in Al-Rabitah.

They have been briefed in detail on this civilized achievement brought about by the Libyan Arab people thanks to the great al-Fateh revolution. They were given detailed accounts about this plant by the engineers and doctors supervising this factory regarding the types of medicines and the quantities to be produced by it depending on the available preliminary materials in the region where this factory has been placed.

The above two visitors have toured all the sections of this plan witnessing the machinery and technical equipments used to produce most advanced medicines. They

have expressed their admiration over this industrial monument reaffirming that it is a pioneering work in the Arab homeland because it depends on non-imported materials and substances used for production. They have reconfirmed that this project is for all the Arabs to achieve their happiness and provide the medical security to the Arab nation.

Comments on Factory Visit

LD0401165789 Tripoli JANA in English 1640 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Rabitah, A'yy al-Nar 4 [4 January] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. M. al-Shatti, minister of health of sisterly Syria, following his visit to the pharmaceutical factory in Al-Rabitah yesterday afternoon, has commented the following to JANA:

What we have witnessed in the pharmaceutical factory is something usual. The fuss made about it has been much exaggerated. We have witnessed all the sections in this factory in which basic medical substances—very necessary to the Arab homeland—will be produced. He points out that this manufactur [as received] has been very important and essential step, It is a step in the right direction.

We, adds, in Syria, a president, leadership, a people all denounce these threats. [sentence as received] I don't think that there is anything worse than a threat to a pharmaceutical factory. All the Arabs, he continues, will defend this civilized monument which great al-Jamahiriyah is building.

Al-Talih Cited on Ties with U.S.

PM0501141489 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4-10 Jan 89 pp 13-14

[Interview with Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, by Salih Qallab; date, place not given]

[Text] [Qallab] Following the U.S. decision to initiate a dialogue with the PLO, do you believe that the United States, under the new administration, will change its position on the Middle East conflict and its current attitudes to certain Arab states?

[Al-Talhi] Considering all dimensions of the U.S. position and the history of the Arab-Zionist conflict, I believe that unfortunately we cannot dare expect any fundamental changes of U.S. policy on the conflict in the region. We in the Libyan Jamahiriyah wish Washington would abandon its anti-Arab and anti-Arab causes policy.

[Qallab] Relations between you and the United States have again become tense after Washington's recent accusations and threats regarding the story of the chemical plant. Is anybody mediating to end this tension and is it true there were some contacts between you and the U.S. Administration last year?

[Al-Talhi] I regret to say that these relations are tense, to say the least. I can confirm that there have been no contacts between us and Washington and that there are no real mediations between us and the U.S. Administration. There were those who tried in the past to mediate to establish some contact, but these attempts produced nothing and the situation remained the same.

[Qallab] Following a quiet period Washington has now again raised the issue of the so-called chemical plant in Libya. What is the truth about that plant, and do you expect a new aggression against the Jamahiriyah?

[Al-Talhi] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has in previous interviews explained the story of that plant, and he has emphasized that the installations over which the United States is making all this clamor are just a factory for medicines and medical equipment and that the doors of the factory are open to anyone wishing to verify the facts of the matter.

Libya has not tried to produce chemical weapons, has no intention of producing such weapons now or in the near future, and has no such weapons in its possession to give to others. Therefore everything said about our supplying Somalia with chemical weapons is only an attempt to defame us and part of the U.S. campaign against us.

The United States knows very well where the chemical and nuclear weapons are in the Middle East. The United States knows that the Zionist state is an arsenal of chemical and nuclear weapons, yet has not raised a single question about it. Furthermore, is it not Washington which gives Israel the aid and the capabilities needed for producing such weapons and is it not the Zionist state which, with U.S. backing and knowledge, refuses to abide by the international laws and treaties concluded in connection with these types of weapons?

The whole world knows that Washington is the party which aids and supports Israel so that it can produce and develop nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons and that there is a U.S.-Israeli military treaty under which the enemy state's capabilities in this connection are developed. We therefore urge the world public to ask the United States the meaning of its artificial uproar against us.

Through its obduracy and insistence on raising a false and fabricated issue, the U.S. intention is to take some kind of action against our people. The matter is clear and well known now. Previously Washington justified its aggression against us with a fabricated story about so-called terrorism and now it is making up a new story called "chemical weapons."

[Qallab] In connection with the new tension between you and the United States, it has been reaffirmed recently that there are contacts between Libya and Egypt and that the mediations made in this regard have resulted in some improvement and also that there are pointers to some positive steps.

[Al-Talhi] I can say that certain Arab sides have endeavored, and are endeavoring, to improve relations between the two countries. In March last year Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed the Libyan Jamahiriyah's interest in having good relations with Egypt because, to us, Egypt is a neighboring sister state. I therefore confirm our real desire to cooperate with it, because we are aware

of its position in the Arab family. We stress that our position on the Camp David agreements and the normalization of relations between Egypt and the Zionist enemy is irrevocable except in the context explained repeatedly by Col al-Qadhdhafi.

[Qallab] We have noticed that, in his interviews, Col al-Qadhdhafi differentiates between President Husni Mubarak and Al-Sadat. Does Libya really draw a distinction between Mubarak and Al-Sadat in this connection?

[Al-Talhi] Certainly, by all standards Mubarak is not Al-Sadat but I must point out that we in Libya are concerned with attitudes. What we condemned was the normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy and the recognition and acceptance of that enemy in the region, despite the general consensus that the presence of that enemy could only be at the expense of Arab rights.

[Qallab] Egypt has recognized the Palestinian state which runs contrary to the Camp David agreements. Do you not see this as a major change in the Egyptian position under President Mubarak?

[Al-Talhi] That recognition certainly deserves praise, but we must not forget that the Camp David agreements have two aspects. The first is bilateral relations between Egypt and the Zionist entity, and the second is the Palestinian question. It is regrettable that the normalization of relations between Egypt and the Zionist entity is still continuing.

Once again I say that, regardless of anything else, we can only regard Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state as worthy of all praise and appreciation. We do not believe that any Arab expects anything less on that score.

[Qallab] You realize that Egypt has passed through difficult economic and military circumstances. Do you not think that it needs all possible Arab aid to enable it to overcome these circumstances and eliminate what these circumstances have brought with them?

[Al-Talhi] I think that the Egyptian people know their affairs better, so to speak. You could address this question to the brothers in Egypt.

[Qallab] Have relations between Egypt and Libya gone further than opening the Egyptian airspace to Libyan aircraft?

[Al-Talhi] The matter of opening Egyptian airspace has to do with allowing some Libyan planes to use Egyptian airspace on their flights to Saudi Arabia when taking pilgrims to holy Mecca and the other holy places. To be honest, this is not the first time that Egypt has opened its airspace to Libyan aircraft bound for the holy places. In every pilgrimage season Egyptian airspace is open to Libyan planes carrying pilgrims to the holy places.

I must point out here that, for our part, we have called for the reopening of borders and for free movement by citizens of both countries, and we have welcomed any dialogue to discuss all matters and issues. We suggested the initiation of such a dialogue because we are aware of the Egyptian role and the Egyptian people's position within the Arab nation.

[Qallab] It has been claimed that Libya recently took part in the fighting against the rebels in southern Sudan. Is that true?

[Al-Talhi] I have no information on that matter.

[Qallab] What about the issue of unity between you and Sudan? Have there been any developments in this connection or has the matter stopped at a certain point?

[Al-Talhi] As you know, the unity dialogue between us and the Sudanese brothers has been going on for a long time. There have been attempts in that direction since the early seventies. As you may recall, the Egyptian-Libyan-Sudanese tripartite agreement was signed at the time. The dialogue then faltered at the official level because of the attitude of former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, but it continued at people's and party levels without any exceptions.

Over the past years the dialogue continued between us and all the forces and parties which opposed the former regime. It was therefore natural to intensify the dialogue after the downfall of that regime. An agreement was signed last September between Libya and the main Sudanese parties. Then came the Tripoli agreement last November to pave the way for a plan of action in the interest of more practical steps toward unity.

We cannot say that bilateral unity between us and Sudan can be achieved overnight, but I can say that all sides very much want to seek practical formulas for developing joint work and cooperation in pursuit of unity.

[Qallab] One of last year's surprises was Libya's recognition of General Michel 'Awn's government in Lebanon. On what was that recognition based?

[Al-Talhi] Our position on Lebanon stems from our understanding of the tragic situation in that fraternal country, the accumulating complexities and difficulties in that state, and the real dangers threatening it. In all our actions regarding the Lebanese problem, if it can be so termed, our top priority is to spare Lebanon the threat of partition. This is our approach to the Lebanese question. We believe that there is a need for an active Arab role to settle the issue, though we know for sure that the influential elements in the Lebanese arena are not only Arab. While realizing the magnitude of the obstacles and the mounting difficulties in Lebanon, what we ask for is the minimum and we admit that it is difficult to neutralize all elements there.

We believe that in order to have an effective Arab role in Lebanon Arab positions must be coordinated with a view to preserving Lebanon's unity , preventing its partition, and ensuring that the country belongs to all its people without exception.

[Qallab] Would Libya agree to an Arab summit conference solely to tackle the situation in Lebanon?

[Al-Talhi] We agree to any effort, at any level, if the aim is to help our Lebanese brothers solve their problems and spare their country the threat of hostile designs.

[Qallab] After Libya's declaration of a policy of openness last year some contacts were made with a number of Libyan figures abroad, the aim being their return and participation in political activities. Have these contacts been successful and have these figures returned?

[Al-Talhi] Whether these people return or remain uproad is up to them. What is known is that Libya's gates were opened and are still open—not only to its own people but also to all the Arab brothers. What the brother colonel did at the beginning of that year was not confined to the context of what you call openness. He also criticized certain excesses, and this was highly appreciated by everyone both in Libya and abroad.

[Qallab] This means that Libya has revised its own special experiment.

[Al-Talhi] It is not a question of revision of a previous experiment. All there is to it is that in our experiment, like in any other in the world, there were some excesses. Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, on his own personal responsibility, took a stand against these these excesses and mistakes. He released all prisoners and rectified matters.

[Qallab] In the light of last year's developments, is the unity of the Arab Maghreb a reality or is it still a dream and a mere idea?

[Al-Talhi] If you had asked me this question before the five-way summit conference in Algiers, I would have had to say that it was still a dream and an idea and that no one knew when it would materialize, because not even the minimum level of action for the unity of the Arab Maghreb countries was available. Now, since that Maghreb summit and the other meetings which followed, including the meetings of the joint committee formed at that summit, I can most optimistically and hopefully say that we are very close to a major step in connection with the attainment of Arab Maghreb unity.

[Qallab] Are you talking about an economic step or a political step?

[Al-Talhi] Ultimately the decision, whatever it may be, can only be a political one. Even in the case of the EC, people mistakenly assume that it had an economic beginning, but the truth is that it began not with an economic decision but with a decision made by politicians, though they did enter their own kind of unity through the economic door.

As for us in the Arab Maghreb, there will clearly and definitely be a political step—since you choose to differentiate between the two—and there will be an economic step.

[Qallab] Now that the Gulf war has come to an end, and bearing in mind the steps taken prior to that at the Libyan and Iraqi level, could we say that relations are back to normal between these two fraternal states?

[Al-Talhi] You can say that without any reservations. Relations between us and Iraq are excellent, with no blemishes. We are very satisfied with these relations.

Pharmaceutical Industry Agreement Signed

LD0501145589 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli Ayy al-Nar 5th JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In Tripoli yesterday an agreement on cooperation was concluded in the sphere of pharmaceutical industry between the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Health and the ARDW [as received] for Pharmaceutical Products academia.

This agreement was signed by the secretary of the People's Committee for Health and Dr. Ghassan Sa'id, assistant director general of academia. The agreement includes the establishment of joint company for arranging the manufactured medicines in the pharmaceutical factory in Al-Rabitah in Ghiryan [name as received]

The agreement asserts the technical cooperation in the sphere of the operation of this manufacture for the production of preliminary substances of medicine, apart from marketing these products in and outside the Arab homeland to make this factory contribute in making available the basic medicines for the rank and file of people in the Arab homeland and abroad to break up the international monopoly in this sphere.

Opposition Spokesman on Chemical Plant

PM0501105189 London ITV Television Network in English 1900 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Interview with opposition spokesman Abu 'Abdallah by diplomatic correspondent Nick Gowing in London from Channel 4 News report presented by Peter Sissons on the downing of the Libyan jets; no date given—recorded]

[Text] [Sissons] The timing of today's incident is particularly sensitive after a week of speculation that the Americans would bomb a chemical plant near Tripoli. The Americans say it can produce chemical weapons; Colonel al-Qadhdhafi says it makes medicine. A short time ago a leading member of the Libyan opposition in London told our diplomatic correspondent Nick Gowing that there is both a pharmaceutical and chemical weapons plant at the same location.

[Abu 'Abdallah] This plant is actually mainly built underground, which is at the bottom of a mountain. And then, next to that, about four, five miles away, there is a small pharmaceutical plant and a hospital. And what Al-Qadhdhafi is talking about—he's talking about the hospital which is proposed to be open sometime in March. But the actual chemical facility is far away, hidden from the eyes.

[Gowing] What information do you have about what's been happening at the plant in recent weeks?

[Abu 'Abdallah] The Libyan authorities—the Al-Qadhdhafi authorities—as far as our information goes, have tried to move some of the installations from the chemicals plant further south in the country in order to completely camouflage the chemical weapons facility and present the world with the so-called pharmaceutical plant.

Opposition Group on Finances, IRA Training

NC0401223489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] London, 4 Jan (MENA)—The Opposition Libyan National Salvation Front reported in its January publication that Libya is suffering from an acute shortage of cash following the drop in its foreign currency resources to $300 million. It added that it is difficult now to halt the rate of inflation.

The publication said that all industrial and construction projects, including the so-called man-made river, have been stopped. It adds that Libya's oil income has dropped from more than $20 billion at the start of this decade to around $10 billion two years ago and to only $3 billion a year ago.

The front said in its publication that the ruling regime is only concerned with itself, thus leaving the country and its economy to its own fate. It added that the ruling regime has recently removed all the gold bars from the Central Bank in Tripoli to an unknown destination inside Libya.

The front's publication also reported that agents from the Irish Republican Army [IRA] are being trained in Libya and Iran on the use of advanced weapons which have not been used so far in northern Ireland. It added that British military sources are convinced that the IRA has an arsenal of over 150 tons of weapons and explosives which have been smuggled to the IRA from Libya. Only five tons of these have been discovered so far.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Polisario Representatives

LD0401221089 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] A communique issued in Algiers today by the SDAR Information Ministry stated that the Sahraoui delegation comprising Bachir Mustapha Sayyed, member of the executive committee of the Polisario front and officer in charge of foreign relations; SDAR Prime Minister Mahfoud Ali Beiba and Defense Minister Ibrahim Ghali. This delegation, which has been staying in Marrakesh, was received this afternoon by King Hassan II.

The statement said that the talks that took place between the Sahraoui delegation and the Moroccan King and lasted well over an hour and 20 minutes and centered on means to ensure a settlement of the Sahraoui-Moroccan conflict which has been going on for well over 13 years.

The details are here. To read them for you, Hassiba Kechreg:

It was learned from a well informed source in the southern Moroccan capital Marrakesh that the high level Polisario delegation which is led by the second man in the [Polisario] front Bachir Mustapha Sayyed was today received in Marrakesh for the first time by the Morrocan King Hassan II. Hassan was surrounded by his political adviser Ahmed Reda Guedira and the foreign and interior ministers Driss Basri and Abdellatif Filali.

The meeting, according to circulating reports, was centered on discussion of the UN peace plan in the Western Sahara, particularly the part that deals with the truce arrangements and the exchange of prisoners and the referendum on self-determination.

The Moroccan leading figures who attended the meeting—Reda Guedira, Driss Basri, and Abdellatif Filali—yesterday met with the Sahraoui delegation a few hours after their arrival from Algiers.

The well-informed source says that the meeting in Marrakesh was devoted to preparing the ground and climate for the talks of the Sahraoui delegation with the Moroccan King Hassan II.

Nothing has leaked out about the stands of the two sides during these talks—the first of their kind between the two sides after 13 years of war at all military, political, and diplomatic levels.

The visit of the Sahraoui delegation to Morocco comes a week before the expected tour by Victor (Groase Estiale), the special representative of the UN secretary general in the area, with the aim of studying, in conjunction with the parties concerned, the arrangements for conducting a referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara.

Morocco and the Polisario front both accepted the principle of a referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara within the framework of the peace plan proposed by the secretary general of the UN Javier Perez de Cuellar. The two sides still differ on the ways and means of arriving at arranging a referendum on self-determination.

The Polisario front calls for direct talks and the withdrawal of the Moroccan forces and administration. These two demands are still rejected by the Moroccan Government.

Sahraoui sources in Algiers said that the Sahraoui delegation, before meeting this evening with the Moroccan King Hasan II, met with the king's adviser Ahmed Reda Guedira, Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, and Driss Basri, the minister of interior and information.

Sudan

Ruling Party Leaders on Democracy, Peace

NC0401223989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1948 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jan (MENA)—A meeting among the leaders of the three Sudanese ruling parties—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Al-Ummah Party; Muhammad

'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party; and Dr Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Front—was held at the Republican Palace in Khartoum this evening. The meeting was held at the invitation of State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani.

Official Sudanese sources said that during the meeting, which was also attended by Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the State Council, fateful and important issues were reviewed in good and high spirits and in a cordial and brotherly atmosphere.

A statement issued after the meeting said that the three leaders agreed to adhere to parliamentary democracy and its constitutional isntitutions and not to deviate from it. They also agreed to adhere to the peace strategy and to make serious efforts to achieve it, on the basis of what was announced on 27 December regarding the peace agreement with the Garang movement. The statement said that the three parties fully realize that the major national issues must be the subject of agreement and consultations among them.

The statement also noted that the three leaders agreed to follow a non-polarized pan-Arab foreign policy and to support the Armed Forces. The three leaders affirmed the need to continue consultations among them in a democratic spirit without emotions.

The statement noted that the meeting did not deal with the issue of the form of government and participation in it. At the end of the meeting, Ahmad al-Mirghani thanked the three leaders for accepting his invitation and for standing united behind the fateful issues and their interest in achieving peace.

It is worth noting that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's statement on 27 December affirmed that the Sudanese initiative which was signed by the Democratic Unionist Party with the Garang movement on 16 November has established a bridge of understanding between the parties to promote the peace process in southern Sudan.

SUNA Employees To Begin 1-Week Strike 7 Jan

NC0401171589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1523 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jan (MENA)—The unions of SUNA employees have decided to stage a 1-week strike beginning at 1000 on Saturday. In a statement issued today, the unions said they have been negotiating with the pertinent state authorities for more than 6 months to find solutions to the agency's problems, which include the implementation of the 1985 law regarding the agency, passed by the provisional military council. According to this law, a board of directors should be established to manage the agency's affairs.

The statement emphasized the unions' rejection of temporary solutions and the need to work for solving all problems which prevent the agency from fulfilling its national role and mission.

The statement described the unions' demands as just and in the interest of work. It noted that the unions had met with Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the State Council, and discussed with him their demands and the bad situation in which the agency has found itself. He promised to find solutions to all the problems after the independence day celebrations.

The unions incorporate the five unions of workers, employees, technicians, engineers, and journalists.

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. 'Aggression'

LD0501082889 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0733 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Jan (KUNA)—Kuwait has condemned the incident of U.S. aggression against Libyan aircraft and the subsequent downing of two Libyan jets over international waters in the Mediterranean.

It declared its support for sister Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and its right to self-defense by legitimate means. It also called on all parties and international peace-loving forces to assume a spirit of responsibility and save the situation in order to preserve world peace and security.

This came in a statement issued by the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry this morning. Here is the text:

Kuwait is following with profound anxiety the developing military confrontation between Libyan and U.S. aircraft over the Mediterranean.

No doubt this serious incident has come at a time when all forces in the world are striving for a relaxation in international relations and for proceeding toward a peaceful period to prevail in the world.

In its previous statement Kuwait had drawn attention to the necessity of rejecting the threat of force as a means for solving international problems and sees in this serious incident an escalation which may lead to a direct threat to peace in this region.

Kuwait in condemning this aggression supports sister Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's right to self-defense by way of legitimate means.

All peace-loving parties and forces are called upon to assume a spirit of responsibility and save the situation in order to preserve world peace and security.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Affirms 'Solidarity' With Libyans

LD0501091389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0844 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Jan (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its profound concern over yesterday's U.S. Air Force downing of two Libyan aircraft over international waters, as reported by Tripoli radio.

A responsible source told SPA that the Kingdom sees no justification for this incident, which exposes the security and safety of the Libyan Jamahiriyah to danger, and also constitutes an escalation that will increase tension in the Mediterranean region.

The source added...the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while expressing its regret at this incident, affirms its solidarity with the Libyan people, and calls for self-restraint and the wise resolution of matters to preserve international peace and security.

UK Foreign Secretary Howe Departs 4 Jan

LD0401225889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Dammam, 4 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Geoffrey Howe left Al-Zahran this evening after a 2-day visit to the Kingdom. He was seen off at Al-Zahran International Airport by His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Excellency the Saudi Ambassador to Britain Nasir al-Manqur; the head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Tawfiq Khalid Alamdar; the British ambassador to the Kingdom, Stephen Egerton; and the director of Foreign Ministry protocol in the eastern region, Yusuf 'Uwaydah.

United Arab Emirates

Papers Denounce U.S. 'Aggression' on Libya

JN0501112289 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0650 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (WAM)—Three newspapers issued in the UAE today denounced the U.S. aggression against Libyan aircraft, stressing in this regard the importance of closing Arab ranks.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD says: No one can understand the U.S. insistence on saying that Libya is building a chemical weapons plant despite the fact that the United States lacks evidence and despite the maintenance by the U.S. allies that the plant is devoted to the production of medicines.

The paper is of the opinion that if the purpose of reiterating this is to attack Libya then the United States will not need pretexts to justify its intentions, pointing to the attempt to invade Cuba in 1961, the invasion of Grenada in 1983, the aggression against Libya in 1986, and other aggressions. The paper affirms that yesterday's U.S. aggression was not incidental but a step in the scheme of aggression. The United States has persisted in preparing for this scheme and has tried to convince its allies to support it in completion of the futile U.S. aggression perpetrated in April 1986.

Concluding its comment, AL-ITTIHAD says: Whether Washington continues or retreats from its threats, the lesson which should be learned is that our strength, as Arabs, lies in our union and in unifying our forces and resources and also in putting our differences aside, recalling the remarks by leader Zayid; namely, that there is no place in this world for small entities.

The newspaper AL-BAYAN says: Through its aggression against Libyan aircraft, Washington has unequivocally declared itself a policeman in the service of the Zionist entity. Pointing out that all the evidence proves that the plant does not produce chemical weapons, the paper says Washington's latest pretext was that the plant may be utilized for war production at any moment. The paper

explains that there are similar plants producing fertilizers, industrial cleansing materials, and medicines which operate in dozens of countries, so why does the United States not use the same pretext to pursue provocation in other parts of the world?

AL-BAYAN pauses at two issues: First, no one can imagine that the plant's production may pose any danger to the United States which is thousands of miles away from Libya even if the plant were to be utilized for war production.

Second, there is a multitude of evidence confirming the presence of more than one nuclear reactor which can produce nuclear weapons in Israel. Without doubt, nuclear weapons are more dangerous than chemical weapons and might affect the United States through nuclear radiation clouds moving around the earth. The paper adds: Despite all this, no one in the U.S. Administration, Congress, or on the U.S. street has considered punishing or blaming Israel or even uttering a warning to it.

Concluding its comment, the paper says: What the United States is literally implementing is the law of the jungle, which is bound to remove the last piece of U.S. credibility with all Arabs. The United States will be much mistaken when it belittles Arab reactions this way.

The newspaper AL-KHALIJ believes that all Arab appeals and denunciations as well as international hopes have not yielded anything. Commenting on the U.S. aggression against Libyan aircraft, the paper says the Soviet friend's warnings, which it describes as peculiar, have not had any effect. It wonders: If the Soviets' interests prompt them to issue statements of denunciation, then will the Arabs' interests also prompt them to do so?

The paper affirms that a little Arab denunciation will suffice and a few feelings of solidarity will meet the purpose. Concluding its comment, the paper urges Arabs not to yield to the U.S. aggression and also to stand courageously before U.S. arrogance.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Abu Dhabi 5 Jan

JN0501114089 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the country this morning from Cairo on a visit to the UAE. During the visit, the Palestinian leader will hold talks with senior state officials on the developments on the Palestinian scene, especially the valiant uprising in the occupied Arab territories, and the current efforts to hold an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat was received at the airport by Sa'id al-Ghayth, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Khalid Malak, acting Palestinian ambassador to the state.

Britain's Howe Arrives on Visit 4 Jan

JN0501082589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jan (WAKH)—Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Dhahran tonight on a 2- day visit to the UAE as part of a regional tour.

During the visit, the British secretary of state will hold talks with a number of UAE officials on ways to promote peace talks between Iraq and Iran and the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598 in order to achieve peace in the region.

He will also discuss developments in the Middle East issue and the Palestine question as well as ways to promote efforts to convene an international conference for peace and resolve the Palestine question. He was received upon arrival by Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs.

Talks With Minister

JN0501141889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (WAKH)—The UAE has urged Britain to support both the PLO's peaceful approach and its initiative to resolve the Palestine question. It also urged Britain to exert pressures on Israel to respond to this initiative and to work, as part of the EEC, to speed up the convening of an international peace conference in the Middle East.

In the session of talks held today between a UAE delegation led by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a British delegation led by Geoffrey Howe, secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, the UAE stressed Britain's historic responsibility to end the Palestinian people's suffering, particularly after the peace initiative recently declared by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The international community has no option except to work to enable the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on their national soil.

A responsible source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told WAM after the session that they reviewed the most important international issues, including developments in the Gulf region, the Middle East, and the Palestine question as well as the situation in Lebanon. Emphasis was laid on the efforts being exerted to promote peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran as well as the GCC states' relations with Iran.

The responsible source said that when the situation in the Gulf region was discussed, both sides agreed on the importance of exerting further endeavors and helping Iraq and Iran overcome the problems obstructing an agreement on implementing Security Council Resolution No 598.

In this regard, the UAE urged Britain, in its capacity as one of the five permanent Security Council member states, to work to implement this resolution and achieve

a lasting peace in the Gulf region. The source said Rashid 'Abdallah reviewed the efforts by the UAE to bring about peace between Iraq and Iran.

'Abdallah asserted that the UAE is assisting the UN secretary general in his efforts to achieve progress in the Iraq-Iran negotiations. He also asserted that the GCC states are exerting similar efforts in this regard. Rashid 'Abdallah pointed out that the GCC Council attaches special importance to enhancing and consolidating bilateral relations between the GCC states and Iran in favor of stability in the region.

The responsible source said the British side explained during the talks its viewpoint on encouraging the Palestinians' peaceful approach, on urging Israel to respond to the Palestinian initiative, and on welcoming the U.S. decision initiating a dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

Concerning the Lebanese issue, the source said both sides expressed concern over the continued aggravation of the Lebanese situation and stressed the importance of exerting efforts to achieve accord in the Lebanese arena and help Lebanon overcome its ordeal.

Also during the talks, views were exchanged on the international conference on banning chemical weapons, which will be held in Paris the day after tomorrow, Saturday, as well as the international conference on environmental pollution, which will be held in Britain in March.

The source said both sides reviewed belateral relations and voiced their satisfaction with the development of these relations as well as their desire to continue enhancing and promoting them.

Yemen Arab Republic

U.S. 'Provocative Act' Against Libya Denounced

JN0401211888 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] An official source made the following statement to SABA' tonight:

The YAR has followed up with deep concern the American 6th Fleet's intercepting two Libyan planes and downing them over the Mediterranean waters. While denouncing this blatant aggression against the sisterly Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the YAR reiterates its solidarity with and support for the fraternal Libyan Arab people against any external aggression. The YAR also asserts its denunciation of that provocative act that does not serve world peace and security and is considered a blatant violation of the UN Charter.

The source affirmed that the continuation of U.S. provocations against the sisterly Jamahiriyah does not serve the future of Arab-American relations and obstructs international offices to achieve peace, security, and stability in the Middle East.

Reaction to U.S. Downing of 2 Libyan Planes

Baghdad Radio Notes Downing

JN0401160689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] A spokesman for the U.S. Defense Department has said that U.S. Navy fighter planes downed two Libyan fighters in a dogfight over the Mediterranean this morning.

The spokesman said that the two Libyan MiG-23's clashed with two U.S. F-14's belonging to U.S. aircraft carrier "John Kennedy" and added that the two Libyan planes were downed.

Libya made an official announcement, saying that the United States had carried out a premeditated aggression by attacking and downing two Libyan planes over international waters in the Mediterranean at 11:03 this morning, Tripoli time.

A statement issued by the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison broadcast by Tripoli radio this afternoon said that the two planes were conducting normal reconnaissance patrols over international waters when the U.S. planes, taking off from the aircraft carrer "John Kennedy," carried out a premeditated attack by attacking and downing the two Libyan planes over international waters.

'Hasty Downing' Condemned

JN0401185489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—Iraq tonight strongly condemned the U.S. aggression against Libya.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that, proceeding from Iraq's understanding of the responsibilities of states toward world security and out of its pan-Arab responsibilities toward any aggression to which any Arab state might be subjected, Iraq strongly condemns this U.S. behavior.

The spokesman added that the hasty downing by the United States of two Libyan planes is strange and condemnable.

The spokesman said that the superpowers shoulder key responsibilities toward world security and added that they are supposed to behave without haste, as the results and effects of their actions are more comprehensive in nature than those carried out by small and medium-sized states.

The spokesman pointed out that all states without exception shoulder a responsibility toward world security, which is in the interests of all parties. He added that when any of these states forgets its responsibilities, this leads to a disturbance in scales and values, thus posing the gravest dangers to world security.

The spokesman affirmed that when a superpower such as the United States acts in such a hasty manner, it poses grave dangers to world security.

Paper Cited on Downing

JN0501095289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0633 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—In an editorial here today, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Iraq vehemently denounces the U.S. downing of two Libyan aircraft. The paper describes the U.S. action as lacking careful consideration and wisdom, noting that it has caused harm to an Arab state. The paper says: Out of its feeling of international responsibility and the need for the spirit of international law to prevail, Iraq vehemently denounces the hasty U.S. action.

The paper emphasizes that the policy followed by Iraq imposes the pan-Arab duty of denouncing any aggression launched by any foreign state against any Arab state. AL-JUMHURIYAH urges respect for international law and says: All big and small countries should respect international law and no world state has the right to violate or disregard it whenever it pleases.

The paper warns against reacting with the use of force. It says: Such conduct has not served world security and peace but has contributed to creating a tense international atmosphere from which the world has long suffered. Today, the Third World states should avoid such conduct.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the possession by any state of great power without using its mind to resolve bilateral or international problems will endanger world security and peace and will also threaten mankind with the gravest catastrophes. It will also encourage other states not to respect world security and to violate international law. This will lead to the law of the jungle prevailing. The paper affirms that this is rejected by the international community. It is also rejected by mankind which has suffered much from aggressions and wars.

Peres, Shamir Aide React to Downing of Jets
TA0401161889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1558 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Jerusalem's reaction to the incident between the United States and Libya is that this is further proof that Libya has been provoking the United States ever since it first heard that the United States was planning to attack its chemical weapons plant.

This was stated by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser, in reaction to the downing of the Libyan MiG's. Such provocative behavior can well be expected from a country like Libya, added Pazner.

Finance Minister Shim'on Peres voiced encouragement for the United States on today's events:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I wish to congratulate the U.S. Navy for downing two threatening aircraft.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is there any information regarding some connection between this incident and the crash of the Pan Am aircraft?

[Peres] I do not know about it. [end recording]

Hungarian Leaders Exchange Letters With Shamir
TA0401175289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Hungarian Communist Party Chairman Karoly Grosz and Prime Minister Karoly Nemeth have stressed the importance of strengthening ties with Israel. Our political correspondent reports that the remarks are included in a letter the Hungarian agriculture minister brought Prime Minister Shamir.

Shamir wrote the Hungarian minister that Israel is happy with the cooperation between the two countries, but that in the chain of ties, the link of full diplomatic relations is still missing.

AL-SHA'B on U.S. Accusations in Pan Am Crash
TA0301190489 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Dec 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "A Feverish Campaign"]

[Text] Despite the fact that many questions remain unanswered about the 21 December crash of the Pan Am plane over Scotland, which led to the death of all innocent passengers from many nations, the U.S. Administration, as is its usual custom, has pointed an accusatory finger at Palestinian parties.

It is difficult for us to understand the aims of this campaign, particularly since it comes at a time when the PLO, through its highest legislative body, has declared its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism, and at a time of increasing international support for the Palestinian cause which is occupying widespread attention on the international scene.

If this campaign against the Palestinians reflects the impotence of the U.S. Administration to determine clearly the causes of the crash, it is at the same time doing a great service to those who are really behind this criminal deed which has been condemned by the PLO and all factions affiliated with it, and even by those outside the framework of the PLO at whom the U.S. accusatory finger has been pointed.

If the U.S. Administration has so far been unable to discover a clue that would help it determine the party that carried out the act, this by itself is adequate proof, particularly when terrorist acts of such high degree of precision clearly indicate that states, not organizations or individuals, are behind such operations.

The U.S. Administration should now concentrate on answering this question: Which country benefits from this terrorist act under the present circumstances? One must take into consideration the growing international support for the Palestinian peace initiative, the opening of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and the antagonistic attempts to destroy this dialogue by parties that do not favor it.

The precision of the terrorist act, its timing, aims, and continuation of international support for the Palestinian peace initiative; all these factors combined clearly reveal the identity of the perpetrators of this terrorist act. Pointing accusatory fingers at the Palestinians does not serve the efforts in the search for the real criminals.

AL-NAHAR: U.S. Diplomats Meet W. Bank Notables
TA0301145789 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 2 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] AL-NAHAR has learned that meetings have been held in Jerusalem in the last few days between a number of West Bank notables and some U.S. diplomats.

Sources close to the diplomats said that these meetings represent a continuation of contacts that existed before the start of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and that the United States is interested in becoming acquainted with the position of Palestinians in the occupied territories on the peace process in the region.

The sources affirmed that in these contacts, Washington is not seeking to create an alternative Palestinian leadership to the PLO.

Frayj Denies 'Arafat 'Threat' Aimed at Him
TA0501121489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has denied a report by the Associated Press that he went into hiding following threats from the PLO. Mayor Frayj spoke to reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin recording] [Frayj] This is a total fabrication. I am sorry that a respected news agency like the Associated Press would distribute such a false report without confirming it or discussing it with me. I am here in my office. We have no security in our office. We don't need any security.

[Berger] Sir, there are reports that threats have been painted on the walls of Bethlehem saying "Shame on Frayj" and "Death to the Betrayers."

[Frayj] Well this graffiti has been going on throughout the territories for the last year or 2. That is not a plebiscite by the people about what I said or did not say.

[Berger] In rejecting your truce proposal, Yasir 'Arafat said any Palestinian leader who proposes an end to the intifadah [uprising] exposes himself to the bullets of his own people. Do you see this as a threat against you?

[Frayj] No, he did not say that. He did not say that, because I did not call for the end of the intifadah. I called for a UN-sponsored truce to be approved by a Security Council resolution. That's different. I never said that I want to see the intifadah stop. No.

[Berger] Now, you don't feel that Mr 'Arafat was referring to your truce proposal when he made this statement?

[Frayj] No, I am confident that Mr 'Arafat did not refer to me specifically.

[Berger] Do you believe your life is in danger?

[Frayj] No, sir.

[Berger] Now that the truce proposal has been rejected by the PLO, what alternative do you see?

[Frayj] I have no alternative. The only alternative now....Mr 'Arafat in Geneva proposed a Palestinian peace plan, and it was rejected by the Israeli Government. We would like to hear from Israel a genuine, realistic peace plan. [end recording]

Minister Gur on Alignment Policy, Talks With PLO

TA0401184989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Telephone interview with Minister Without Portfolio Mordekhay Gur of the Alignment by Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Good morning, Minister Mordekhay Gur.

[Gur] Good morning.

[Barqay] For you, Mr Gur, is meeting with PLO members no longer a political question, but rather a straightforward legal one?

[Gur] To be honest, I objected to the law even at the time. I do not believe that political matters of such a degree of importance can be prevented or banned by laws. I did not favor it, but the law was passed. In my opinion, the minute it did, it became the only limitation on such meetings. Knesset members, of course, should make sure that everything they do is within the framework of the law. The issue itself, advancing the peace process, is important enough for Knesset members actually to take part in it.

[Barqay] Do you mean that as far as you can tell, the PLO has met all political criteria and is now a suitable partner for a dialogue?

[Gur] As far as the Alignment's political platform is concerned, the PLO has not passed all criteria set for it. On the other hand, however, there is no doubt—in my mind, at least—that ever since the PNC convention in June 1988, the PLO has realized that the way of violence, of terrorism, will not gain the desired goals, and it should therefore try the political way. I view this step as a giant victory for Israel in its ongoing battle against terror and violence.

That is why I am prepared to take the political way and talk. I believe that indirect contacts will now increase through various channels, mainly through the Americans, to find the bridge that would cross the barriers that still remain, especially in the areas of terror; to enter, possibly, more businesslike negotiations; and to find a solution that will finally bring an end to the conflict and the wars.

[Barqay] Mr Gur, it seems that the Alignment is playing a two-faced game: On the one hand, its political platform clearly states: no to negotiations with the PLO....

[Gur, interrupting] That is correct.

[Barqay] Yesterday at the Knesset, as we all well know, you joined a proposition raised by the Likud. In the meantime you allow your men—back-benchers for the time being, but with time they will be ministers as well—to meet PLO members. So, you are in the government, while on the other hand you are willing to listen to remarks made by 'Arafat men.

[Gur] As you may recall, soon after the government was formed—and I was among those who favored a joint government because as soon as the election results were made known, I realized that it would be the lesser of evils, and a worse evil would be prevented. [changes thought] In the last session of the previous government, I told the prime minister that if he enters a narrow-based government it would be one of stalemate and barriers. I told him that if he goes with us, knowing our positions, he would create a government that would head toward negotiations, arrangements, and agreements.

I did not think for one minute that we would not be able to operate in a joint government and within the accepted consensus of collective responsibility, toward achieving peace. I see no contradiction there. The PLO has not done all that is required from it to enter direct negotiations. We have to make all possible efforts to find the ways and means to break through the circle of intifadah [uprising] and reach peace and calm, with security, of course. That is why there is no contradiction here, only a need to act toward peace within the free governmental and parliamentary framework in which we live.

[Barqay] Mr Gur, I want to ask you about events within your own party. Yesterday you stated your intention to compete with Shim'on Peres over heading the party. Why did you decide to put Peres' leadership in question and why now, when he is in a rather delicate situation, namely, trying to pull his economic plan through?

[Gur] First of all, you are asking me about an event that will take place in 2 or 3 years. That is why I suggest not making too large an issue of it. Furthermore, I was among those who recommended, and not just to the present government, taking the Treasury in our hands. I mean to provide Finance Minister Shim'on Peres with all the assistance he needs to succeed in his job, because it is a good thing. It is good for the state, the economy, society, and, of course, for us in the party.

As for 1992, there is a basic question here: Should we maintain the same directions and groups we have had so far, or should we change them? In addition to that, I suddenly discovered that a strong position in the Central Committee is not enough; you need a group behind you. Friends have been trying to tell me so for more than 18 months and I refused.

I did that for just the same reason you have mentioned; in other words, not to hurt Peres. But then I found out that he intends to keep me away from the Cabinet without my knowledge, disregarding conversations we held in the past. I realized that I needed to form a lobby for myself, as several ministers and the party secretary general have been doing so far. There is nothing earth-shattering about it. I found out that I need to protect my political career with a lobby.

[Barqay] Mr Gur, thank you.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

1 Killed, 1 Hurt in Gaza Camp

TA0401132089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] A 16-year-old youth named Nasir Isma'il Nasir was killed and another youth was seriously wounded this morning in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The wounded youth is 15 years old. Residents of the camp told our correspondent Moti Amir that the incident took place during clashes with an IDF unit that entered the refugee camp. The IDF is checking the report.

Details on Gaza Youth's Death

TA0401185089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The investigation into the death of the 17-year-old youth in the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip today yielded the following details: a group of local youths attacked an IDF patrol with firebombs. As their lives became endangered, shots were fired at the instigators, seriously injuring Nasir Isma'il Nasir. The youth was evacuated to a clinic where he died of his wounds. His body was snatched by relatives and has been buried. A curfew was imposed on the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp.

The IDF spokesman reports that three Gaza youths were injured today during an operation initiated by the IDF today.

Approximately 30 minutes ago, several vehicles parked at 309 Hanafa Street in the Gilo neighborhood of Jerusalem were stoned. The police believe that the stones were thrown from Bayt Jala. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that four cars were damaged.

3 More Hurt in Incidents 4 Jan

TA0401182389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Jum'a al-Ghuri, 17, was wounded in the hand in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp today. He was taken to Al-Ahali Hospital in Gaza. In the Al-Am'ari refugee camp a youth was wounded during stone throwing incidents. He was taken to a hospital in Ramallah. A 14-year-old youth of the village of Yattah was wounded this afternoon when an object exploded in his hands. The IDF is investigating the incident. Security forces carried out operations today in a Qalqilyah neighborhood. The neighborhood was closed and door-to-door searches were carried out to locate those suspected of stone throwing and rioting.

The political activity of residents of the territories continued today, parallel to the regular incidents of the uprising. The communist party in the territories today published a manifesto against holding local council elections in the territories. According to the manifesto, disseminated today in East Jerusalem and Ramallah, the aim of the elections is to form a leadership that would replace the PLO. [passage omitted]

Update on Clashes 4 Jan

TA0501121289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Jan 89 p 15

[Report by Oren Kohen, Shim'on Elqabetz, and Yasmin Qeyni]

[Excerpts] Jericho resident Bassam Barakhmand, 25, was shot by unknown assailants near his home last night. He was transferred in critical condition to Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem, where he died. An initial investigation showed he was hit by two bullets. [passage omitted]

At least 10 people—most between the ages of 12 and 17—were wounded during yesterday's riots in the Gaza Strip, Arab sources claimed. The unrest centered mainly in Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, Al-Nusayrat, and Gaza. The number of workers who left for their jobs in Israel was limited. The curfews on the Gaza Strip refugee camps were lifted. Mikha'el Deqel, the prime minister's special adviser on settlement affairs, yesterday toured the Gaza Strip and the Gush Qatif area. He discussed with settlers the paving of a road that will bypass the Gaza Strip.

Arab sources said two residents of Shuwaykah, who were wounded last week, were detained by security forces yesterday. Rashid Jarrah, 31, and Mahmud Zadak, 16, returned to Shuwaykah in a Red Cross ambulance.

According to Arab sources, the ambulance was held up at a roadblock near 'Anabta and was then escorted by a military vehicle to the Tulkarm military government headquarters where the two were arrested.

The curfew on the Balatah refugee camp, the Balatah neighborhood, and the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp is still in force. Arab sources said that despite the curfew, Balatah residents stoned buses carrying settlers. The windshield of one of the buses was smashed, and the settlers fired into the air. There were also stoning incidents in Hawar.

According to Arab sources, an IDF patrol entered Zawiyah near Nabulus on Tuesday night and threw gas grenades at the entrance to houses. A donkey, 3 goats, and 20 chickens were killed.

A youth from 'Arrabah, who was shot in the testicles with a plastic bullet on 31 December and remained home for fear that he would be arrested, arrived at the Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus yesterday as the pain became too great.

In Qalqilyah, the Army imposed a blockade on the Kefar Sava neighborhood. [name as published] Arrests were made in the village of Buraqa' yesterday, following the repeated appearance of slogans on the hill facing the Janin-Nabulus road. From time to time, the word PLO can be seen marked with stones on the hill.

Arab sources said there were violent clashes in the Tulkarm refugee camp, and two little girls were wounded by plastic bullets. A police vehicle and Israeli bus were stoned in Tulkarm. In Kafr 'Abbush, in the Tulkarm district, 11 people on the wanted list were detained. Inhabitants reported that a vehicle belonging to Raslan 'Adhaliyah was confiscated by the IDF while he was traveling on the Shuwaykah road. [passage omitted]

Ramallah police are searching for settlers suspected of hurling stones at houses belonging to Al-Birah residents. Mustafa Shahin of Al-Birah protested to the police that an Israeli bus stopped near his home on Tuesday night and some 20 settlers got off and began throwing stones, smashing three windows in his house. [passage omitted]

Final Tabah Border Marker Put into Place

TA0401184489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The last border stone marking the Israeli-Egyptian border was put into place this afternoon on a rise overlooking Tabah. It is the 91st stone demarcating the Israeli-Egyptian border. About 40 Egyptian journalists and a television crew were on hand to see a helicopter of the MFO lower the 2-ton marker in place.

Ambassador to Kenya Links Ties With Mideast Peace

TA3012195388 Jerusalem Domestic Service In Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Israel's new ambassador to Kenya, Arye Ivtzan, says there is reason to believe that other East African countries will soon resume diplomatic relations with Israel. He believes that Kenya's decision to resume its relations with Israel may promote the efforts to settle the Middle East conflict through negotiations.

Mr Ivtzan made these remarks after the ceremony inaugurating the Israeli Embassy in Nairobi.

Ben-Shoshan Named New Defense Attache to U.S.

TA0301182589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Rear Admiral Avraham Ben-Shoshan, Navy commander, will retire soon and will be appointed defense attache in Washington. He will be replaced by 'Ami Ayalon, a senior Navy officer. The above is reported by Karmela Menashe, our army affairs correspondent. Major General 'Amos Yaron, the incumbent attache, will be ending his military service.

Deqel Named Adviser on Settlement Affairs

TA0401132789 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 4 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has appointed Mikha'el Deqel, former deputy minister of agriculture and deputy minister of defense, as his adviser on settlement affairs. Mr Deqel will work on behalf of the prime minister to encourage, direct, and assist public bodies dealing with settlement-related activities and serve as liaison between the government ministries.

Deqel: 3 New Settlements Planned for Gaza Strip

TA0401202089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Three permanent settlements will be set up in the Qatif bloc within the next 6 months. This remark was made today by Mikha'el Deqel, the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs, during a visit there.

Heads of settlements in the Gaza Strip have determined the sites for the new settlements, Kefar Darom, Pe'at Sade, and Dugit, and said that building those new settlements would be done within the framework of the present settlement operation in the Gaza Strip. So far some 400 families from all over Israel have registered for the operation; they are now conducting tours of Gaza Strip settlements to find the ones in which they want to settle.

Prime Minister Favors Increasing Settlements

TA0301144689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning received a delegation of settlement leaders in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip who are on a hunger strike in front of his office. The prime minister told the delegation that the defense establishment is trying to solve the problem of stone throwing in the territories. He promised that the IDF would take firm measures to end the phenomenon, and expressed the hope that the situation would improve in the near future.

Mr Shamir also promised to reinforce the settlement drive in the territories to the extent possible. He said this is a national mission.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the delegation was made up of Uri Ari'el, chairman of the Settlers' Council; Rabbi Moshe Levinger, Knesset Member Hanan Porat, and local council heads Tzvi Handel and Ron Nahman.

Data Show Lowest Economic Growth Since 1982

TA3012124088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Dec 88 p 20

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Israel this year registered its lowest economic growth since 1982, as a combination of the Arab uprising, bad weather conditions and shrinking domestic markets led to a stagnation in the business sector's output.

National accounts figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed that the country's Gross Domestic Product [GDP] only increased 1 percent this year. The business sector's product, which is generally considered a better yardstick to measure economic growth, did not grow at all.

The bureau said this low economic growth reflected falls in industrial output, which fell 3 percent; agriculture, which declined 8 percent; and the construction sector, which dropped 3 percent. Another factor involved in the sluggish economic growth was a 12 percent drop in tourism, apparently connected to the Palestinian uprising in the territories.

At the beginning of the year, the Bank of Israel and the Treasury predicted an economic growth of 4.6 percent for 1988. This was not achieved, according to a recent internal Treasury report, because the costs linked to the uprising took some 2.5 percent of the business sector's GDP. The rest of the loss was accounted for by smaller than expected sales in the domestic market, as well as the bad weather conditions which harmed a number of crops during the year.

The bureau indicated that exports to the territories fell around one third in 1988. Last year these exports totalled $900 million.

The industrial sector was also affected by the decision to stop the development and production of the Lavi jet fighter. In 1987, the sector's sales linked to the Lavi totalled $300m., and they fell to nothing this year.

Private consumption rose between 3-4 percent during 1988. After taking into account the rise in population, this means that the standard of living rose around 1-2 percent this year. The figures also showed a 9.9 percent cumulative increase in living standards since 1983, an average annual increase of 1.9 percent. But behind this average, not unlike other industrialized countries, there were ample fluctuations. Living standards fell a cumulative 10 percent in 1984 and 1985 and then rose 12.4 percent in 1986. Last year they increased 6.4 percent, and this year they climbed 1.9 percent.

A similar picture emerged for salaries. Real wages in the business sector were only 7 percent higher this year compared with 1983. This represents an annual average increase of 1.3 percent. Wages in the public sector this year were 1 percent higher than in 1984, and 5 percent above their 1983 level.

Labour productivity in the business sector rose a modest 0.4 percent in 1988, compared with 2.8 percent last year. The bureau figures showed that since 1983, the cumulative labour productivity increase in the business sector totalled 12 percent.

The uprising in the territories was also reflected in the employment figures. The number of hours worked in industry fell 4 percent, while in construction this figure dropped 10 percent. In agriculture, the number of hours worked fell 8 percent. But in the public sector, the number of hours worked rose 4 percent, and also increased 6 percent in commerce and services.

The figures showed that tax payments represented about 24 percent of the Gross National Product, compared to 26 percent in 1987 and 27 percent in 1986.

The figures also showed that the public showed no inclination to return to the high saving rates of the Seventies and early Eighties. The net saving rate (after depreciation), which three years ago stood at 20 percent, was only 2-3 percent this year. This rate was still higher than 1987's, which reached an unprecedentedly low level of 1-2 percent.

Government civilian expenditure rose 3 percent this year, more than the increase in GDP. This was the first time since 1984 that the rise in government consumption was higher than the rate of economic growth. This year's rise was the highest since the beginning of the decade.

Domestic military outlay, which had increased in 1987, again rose this year by 3 percent. This put military outlay back to its 1985 level, after a 6 percent drop in 1986. A bureau spokesman said about half of the outlay was accounted for by larger purchases, while the other half was explained by greater manpower expenses, a development apparently linked to the operations in the administered territories.

The bureau estimated that the civilian deficit in the balance of payments totalled $3.4 billion, a rise of $28m. over 1987. In 1986 and 1987, the deficit increased by a cumulative $1.26b., after dropping $1.2b. in 1985 and $500m. in 1984.

Exports of goods and services dropped 3 percent in real terms in 1988, after an 11 percent rise in 1987. Industrial exports excluding diamonds, dropped 5 percent in real terms, a fall influenced by the drop in sales of industrial products to the West Bank and Gaza. Exports to the rest of the world were stable, the bureau noted.

Civilian imports of goods and services also remained stable in 1988, after an 11 percent increase last year. Merchandise imports fell 2 percent, after a 13 percent rise in 1987. This drop was offset by a 14 percent increase in fuel imports and a 7 percent rise in diamond imports. Service imports rose around 6 percent, reflecting the larger number of Israelis travelling abroad this year.

Customs on U.S., EEC Goods Reduced; Tax Imposed
TA3012121788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] From Sunday, the customs on a series of durable goods will be reduced in accordance with agreements with the United States and the EC, but if the public hopes that cars would be substantially cheaper, they'll be disappointed, as we hear in this report from Tzvi Pantonovitz:

[Begin Pantonovitz recording] On the face of it, it's good news for the consumer. Under the bilateral agreements with the EC and America, the tariffs on a list of imported goods will come tumbling down—for instance: televisions by 11 percent, videos by 9 percent, washing machines by 10 percent, and the household joy—the dishwasher—by 12 percent. But, alas, with cars, we won and we lost. Customs will come down as promised, but the government has promptly slapped on a purchase tax, so that in the end cars will cost between 1 to 2 percent less, no more. This is because the Treasury stood to lose about 150 million shekels in revenues from cars alone.

At a news conference in Jerusalem today, the director of customs, Mordekhay Bareqet, said there was no agreement with the Americans and the West European countries involved in the car purchase tax, but he hopes there would be no problem, since there was a clause in the agreements that allowed the government to take steps to protect themselves in special cases.

As to clothing, the customs will be down 7 percent on American and EC imports and 8 percent on goods from other countries. The total revenue loss to the state will be about 300 million shekels. It's not clear how this will be made up, but apparently not by upping value added tax, as was suggested in some quarters.

The customs have closed all ports of entry for removal of goods until Tuesday.

One last point: Today's prices do not reflect the 5-percent devaluation and any devaluation to come. [end recording]

Knesset Member Avraham Poraz of Shinuy says putting up purchase tax on imports from Europe to offset reduction in customs duties is an infringement of the customs agreement with the EEC and the United States. He warned the move would arouse the ire of those countries, who could be expected to take reprisals, leading to Israel's economic isolation.

Devaluation Causes 'Steep Drop' in Reserves
TA0301163889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Israel's foreign currency reserves dropped by $765 million last month, and now stand at $3.41 million. Our correspondent notes that the steep drop in these reserves stems from the increased demand for and purchase of foreign currency last month against the backdrop of the anticipated devaluation.

Last month, the government funneled 113 million shekels into the economy.

Foreign Investment 'Quadrupled' in 1988
TA0401123789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jan 89 p 8

[Report by business correspondent Judith Maltz]

[Excerpt] The level of foreign investment in Israel more than quadrupled in 1988 to $96 million from $21m. in the previous year, figures published yesterday by the Ministry of Industry and Trade show, but the value of the new investment scheme approved by the government plunged.

Foreign investment in industry came to $46m. last year, compared with $19m. in the previous year. Foreign investors had a stake in 59 new projects worth a total of $184m. In tourism, foreign investment rose even more sharply to $50m., from only $2m. in the previous year, and the total value of projects involving foreign partnerships came to $152m.

By comparison, the value of foreign investment approved by Industry Ministry in 1988 fell 16.3 percent to $590m., for funding of 231 new projects. In 1987, $705m. in new investment was approved for 283 projects. [passage omitted]

Red Cross Seeks Shi'ite Guarantees for Return

NC0401143989 Paris AFP in English 1414 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Beirut, Jan 4 (AFP)—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has sought guarantees from senior Lebanese Shi'ite leaders before it authorizes its delegates to resume operations in Lebanon, press reports said here Wednesday.

The request from Angelo Gnaedinger and Michel Dufour, ICRC officials responsible for the Middle East and Lebanon respectively, was carried in a letter appearing in the Lebanese press.

The request was sent Tuesday to the country's principal Shi'ite leaders, including Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din of the Shi'ite Superior Council and Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement.

The letter stipulated that the ICRC's resumption of activities, suspended December 20 after the committee said its delegates had received death threats, would depend on "a recognition by all parties in Lebanon of the strictly humanitarian role of the ICRC and its independent character."

The ICRC withdrew its 17 employees from Lebanon last month, saying the threats had come from the kidnappers of committee delegate Peter Winkler.

Mr. Winkler was abducted in southern Lebanon in mid-November by unknown gunmen and released a month later on December 16.

His kidnappers, citing Mr. Winkler's Swiss nationality, linked the abduction to the fate of Muhammad Hariri, a young Lebanese Shi'ite who is to appear before a Swiss court February 20 on charges of having hijacked an Air Afrique jet to Geneva in July 1987 and killing a passenger.

Birri Said Agreeing to Military Action in South

JN0401155789 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 3 Jan 89 pp 1, 18

[Muwaffaq al-Madani dispatch from Beirut]

[Excerpt] Party officials yesterday revealed to AL-BAYAN that the leader of the Amal Movement, Nabih Birri, has agreed with the leaders of the Lebanese national and progressive parties on the return of their political and military activity in southern Lebanon with the participation of the Amal Movement.

Meanwhile, reports have stated that the clashes between Amal and Hizballah have extended from Beirut's southern suburb to the east of Sidon in southern Lebanon.

These sources have asserted to AL-BAYAN that the Amal Movement leader will make southern Lebanon an open area for multiform political action and for military action through coordination within the framework of a joint military operations room to organize resistance activties against the Israeli enemy.

With this, the Amal Movement leader will be responding to the demands of these parties, which have in the past insisted on freedom of political and military action in southern Lebanon against the Israeli enemy.

It has also been learned that the step to be taken by the Amal Movement leader, which he will announce soon, is a limitation and containment of the activity of Hizballah, which is also insisting on returning to the South after the open conflict between Amal and Hizballah has resulted in a reduction of its influence there. [passage omitted]

Syrian Forces Deploy Between Amal, Hizballah

NC0401183789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The Syrian Army took up positions between Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters in Beirut's southern suburb this afternoon. The Syrians reportedly established a buffer zone along the line separating Al-Shiyah, which is under Amal's control, and the rest of the suburb, which is under the influence of Hizballah.

The Syrian deployment took place following an agreement which has been reached under the auspices of Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observer team. AFP quoted a security source as saying that this agreement calls for freezing all military operations but does not provide a political solution to the conflict between the two parties.

The security source maintained that any comprehensive political agreement would not be signed between the two parties before the arrival of the Iranian mediator, who, it was reported yesterday, will not be coming soon.

Our security correspondent reports that the area extending from the airport to Al-Qhubayrah, Al-Musharrafiyah, Bi'r al-'Abd, and Al-Hajjaj has been declared a demilitarized zone. A source in the security committee said that the word 'Demilitarized' means that the Syrians can carry out raids and confiscate weapons within this zone.

However, a Hizballah source noted that the Syrian forces are taking up positions in buildings and positions as part of disengagement plan between the combatants. The source denied the existence of any agreement providing for Syrian penetration into some populated areas, particularly in Hayy Madi, Bi'r al-'Abd, and Al-Musharrafiyah.

Hizballah maintains a clear positions regarding such expansion and has not retreated from it yet. Security sources linked this position with Hizballah's refusal to allow the Syrian forces to get close to any positions it has fortified, where the foreign hostages might be located.

Clashes in South Abate; Amal Warns of More

NC0401184289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Complete calm is prevailing in the southern suburb. The Syrian Arab forces are continuing to intensify their presence and measures to consolidate security.

Reports from the joint security committee said that the Syrian forces have raided the areas which were the scene of clashes during the past five days. These forces have also set up new positions, particularly in those previously occupied by the gunmen.

On the other hand, REUTER has cited a senior Amal military source as saying tonight that if the security plan sponsored by the Syrians is limited to the measures taken so far in the tense areas of the southern suburb, we can then expect a resumption of the fighting. The military source added that the situation requires a strong Syrian deployment backed by heavy weapons on all the confrontation lines between the warring militiamen.

Meanwhile, according to reports received from the South, the clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah have abated noticeably. These clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah were resumed this afternoon. Amal sources said that its gunmen are in control of Jba' and Jarju' Villages and that the battles centered in Al-Luwayzah and the outskirts of 'Arab Salim.

Hizballah Radio on Continued Fighting in South

NC0501072889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Excerpt] A responsible source in the Islamic resistance has stated that Amal gunmen in Iqlim al-Tuffah are continuing their siege of Islamic resistance positions in Jabal Safi.

Moreover, Amal gunmen stationed in Sarba, 'Arab Salim, and Kafr Fila are using heavy artillery and rockets to shell mujahidin positions in Al-Luwayzah, Mlita, and Jabal Safi. [passage omitted]

17 Killed, 32 Wounded

NC0501085889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Tension still prevails in the Al-Luwayzah, 'Ayn bu Siwar, 'Arab Salim, Jarju', and Jaban Safi areas following the violent clashes which broke out between Amal and Hizballah gunmen yesterday.

AFP cites hospital sources as saying that the last round of Amal-Hizballah battles in the southern suburb and Iqlim al-Tuffah left 17 dead and 32 wounded.

Lahd's Marj 'Uyun Headquarters Said Attacked

NC0401175789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from the occupied areas, the agent Lahd militia headquarters in Marj 'Uyun came under machinegun fire at 0130 today. The outcome of the attack is not known yet.

The reports said that the [Israeli] occupation forces fired around 20 155-mm mortars in the vicinity of the agent militia position in Wadi al-Qatran between 2200 and midnight yesterday at a time when this position was coming under attack from the resistance. There are no further details on this operation.

Israeli Mechanized Concentrations Seen in South

NC0501101989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] According to security reports from the south, Israeli mechanized concentrations and unusual military movements have been spotted on the Al-Suwayda'-Tuhrah road and Tallat 'Ali al-Tahir.

30 Communist Party Sympathizers Expelled

NC0501094989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The security authorities in southern Lebanon expelled a number of families who belong to the Lebanese Communist Party through the Kafr Tibnit crossing into the north this morning.

It was learned that 30 persons were expelled, including seven families from the villages of Kafr Hamam, Ibil al-Saqy, and Dayr Mimas, as well as the mother of Suha Bisharah [the girl who shot South Lebanese Army Commander General Antoine Lahd].

Reaction to U.S. Downing of 2 Libyan Planes

Damascus Reports Downings

JN0401154989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] In Tripoli, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah today announced that the United States carried out a premeditated aggression, attacking two Libyan aircraft and shooting them down over international waters.

International news agencies cited Tripoli radio as saying that the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has announced in a statement that at 1103 today, while two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft were carrying out a routine patrol over international waters, U.S. aircraft flying from the aircraft carrier "John Kennedy," carried out a premeditated aggression, attacked the two Libyan aircraft, and shot them down over international waters.

Al-Shar' Condemns 'Aggression'

JN0401214088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received 'Abd al-Qadir al-Urfali, head of the Libyan relations bureau [embassy] in Damascus. Discussion revolved around the U.S. aggression against the two Libyan reconnaissance planes and downing them over the Mediterranean.

The foreign minister expressed Syria's strong denunciation and condemnation of this aggression. He also expressed Syria's firm stand alongside the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the brotherly Libyan people.

The foreign minister asked the international community to condemn the U.S. policy of threats and aggression, which constitutes a grave escalation of tension in the Mediterranean region and poses a threat to international peace and security.

Paper Cited on 'Aggression'

JN0501073589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Jan 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH highlights the U.S. aggression against Libya. Under the headline "The Aggression and the Required Stand", the paper says:

The flagrant U.S. aggression against fraternal Libya has known objectives and exposed motives as was the case in the 1986 aggression which had as its target the Libyan capital as well as leader Al-Qadhdhafi's house and family.

Statements made by U.S. officials on the new flagrant aggression affirm that the U.S. Administration continues to implement its schemes designed to dominate the Arab homeland and, consequently, to fulfill the requirements of the subsequent Zionist scheme of expansion. This scheme has found, in the circumstances which market capitulation, an appropriate atmosphere to liquidate the Palestine question and finish off the Arab liberation movement.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The aggression against Libya is actually an aggression against Arabs and their pan-Arab institutions. Hence, standing in the face of this aggression as well as confronting and denouncing it are an Arab responsibility which concerns all Arabs and places them before their responsibilities in order to confront the danger posed by the aggression as well as its motives, its reasons, and its long-term effects.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: From this premise, Syria has declared its clear stand and absolute support for fraternal Libya. While regarding the U.S. military operations carried out yesterday as a prelude to a more serious aggression, Syria calls for standing alongside Libya and defending the Libyan territory and people in embodiment of the Arab masses' stand and aspirations from the Gulf to the Ocean.

'Zionists' Said Behind Airline Bomb Threats

JN0401202888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return" feature]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: For days, there has been talk about threats to Sweden that a civilian Swedish airliner will be blown up on an internal flight. These are mysterious threats, and if we study their content we will find that they are closely connected to the designed threat that preceded the organizing of the U.S. airliner tragedy.

The only side that could have formulated these designed threats and directly benefits both from the crime that was committed and from the crime that is feared are the Zionists, who are seeking to punish all those who are thinking of dealing with the Palestinian fact in a manner different from the Zionists' whims, designs, and persistence on maintaining their occupation of Arab territories and denying Palestinian rights.

The specter of terrorism that overshadows the world today is only that of the Zionist Mosad, working through direct orders from the Zionist war criminal, who is renowned for his terrorist practices in the past—Yitzhaq Shamir.

The nature of those around him, whether from the Likud or the Alignment, does not differ from his. They are Zionists—that is to say a group of adventurous terrorists who have abandoned and betrayed their original homelands and come to usurp others' homelands to make a homeland for themselves at the expense of others' pains.

Like all thieves and adventurers, they will not refrain from committing any criminal act to keep what they have usurped from others or to prevent being punished. They also realize that their crimes could not have happened and cannot continue without an American and West European imperialist cover.

Today, they feel that the heroic uprising in the occupied homeland has made the winds of rational and humane thinking blow across the European and American Continents and usher in the beginning of a broad popular movement, which supports the people of Palestine and resembles the popular movement that forced U.S. imperialism to stop its aggression against Vietnam.

To prevent this change, they began to play the game of designed terrorism and attempted to accuse the Arabs so the world will become preoccupied with mysterious crimes and pay no attention to the wronged children, who are facing unjustice with stones.

But, to no avail are the Zionists trying to deceive mankind. To no avail, they are trying to remove the picture of Israeli soldiers savagely breaking the bones of Palestinians. To no avail, they hide their disgraceful crimes.

Paper Cited on 'Palestinian Capitulation Line'

JN0401180789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] In Damascus, the Syrian newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asked the Arab states to fight what it describes as the Palestinian capitulation line, which constitutes an obstacle to developing the concept of Arab solidarity.

The paper noted that the capitulationists are heading toward an impasse because they have revealed all of their cards in a single move and offered all their concessions but have not received anything in return either from the United States or Israel.

Afghanistan

Statement Issued on Vorontsov's Tehran Talks

LD0401192789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Here is a statement from the Press Office of the Presidency:

Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and Soviet ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, visited Tehran from 2-3 January on invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

While in Iran, Yuliy Vorontsov was received by Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, and he held a detailed discussion with 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Republic of Iran.

During these meetings the issues of quickly ending the war and restoring peace in Afghanistan were comprehensively considered. At these talks the cease-fire announced on 1 January 1989 on the initiative of esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, was highlighted as a first step toward a lasting peace. The stance and views of the Soviet side on forming a peace preparatory assembly comprising the delegates of all political parties and all sides interested in laying foundations for principles to create a broad-based coalition government were comprehensively explained.

The Iranian side expressed its interest in achieving a speedy end to bloodshed in Afghanistan and a political solution to the issues by Afghans themselves, as well as consolidating Afghanistan's independent and nonaligned status.

The parties expressed their mutual interest in continuing contacts regarding the acceleration of the process for the political solution of Afghanistan's problem.

In accordance with the decision by esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, Yuliy Vorontsov also held talks in Tehran with the leadership of the Islamic coalition Council of Afghanistan, the eight-party alliance headed by Mr Khalili.

At this meeting the stands of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union regarding the peaceful solution of Afghanistan's problem was explained, and it was specifically pointed out that the acceptance of a cease-fire by all belligerent parties to the conflict will be the first important practical step toward restoring peace in Afghanistan and forming a broad-based coalition government in this country.

At this meeting the idea for the formation of a peace preparatory assembly with the participation of the delegates of all parties and political groups was comprehensively explained. Such an assembly can form a leadership council, and in its turn this council can create the broad-based coalition government of Afghanistan.

The leaders of the eight alliance parties have promised to study and consider carefully these ideas and views. In this respect they have expressed their view that in Afghanistan there must be political pluralism and a multiparty system without any discrimination or surveillance. They also pointed out that it is necessary that relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, in the future too, have friendly [word indistinct] and maintain the good-neighborliness established between the two countries during history.

It was decided that such contacts and meetings should be continued.

President Najibullah Receives Western Reporters

LD0401220089 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah received Ali Saderzada, FRG Radio-TV correspondent, this afternoon at the Presidency's Golkhana Palace.

In reply to the questions raised by this correspondent, Esteemed Najibullah spoke about the prospect of the talks between the Soviet Union and the armed opposition based in Peshawar and Iran, withdrawal of the USSR's limited units, and further realization of the national reconciliation policy in the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report, esteemed Najibullah received Edward Gorman and (Jenashengar), reporters of London's THE TIMES this afternoon at Golkhana Palace.

In reply to their questions, president of the Republic of Afghanistan spoke about the role of the PDPA after the withdrawal of the USSR's limited units, the mission of Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR and ambassador and extraordinary representative of this country in the Republic of Afghanistan, to the countries of Iran and Pakistan and continuation of dialogue with the armed opposition.

Wakil Departs for Paris Chemical Weapons Meeting

LD0501071889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0446 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 4, BAKHTAR—An Afghan delegation headed by Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), today left Kabul for Paris to attend international conference of foreign affairs ministers of the signatory countries of the Protocol 1925 on banning the use of chemical weapons. The conference is held in Paris.

Also, foreign affairs minister of the RA will participate in the session of the committee of foreign affairs ministers of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) due to be held in Nicosia centre of the Republic of Cyprus on the improvement of work methodology of the movement.

Najibullah Envoy Departs for Iraq, Kuwait

LD0301223589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Nezamuddin Tahzib, chief justice of the Republic of Afghanistan, as special envoy of esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, left

Kabul this morning for Iraq and Kuwait, to present the Afghan president's messages to his excellency Saddam Husayn, president of Iraq and his excellency Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait.

He was seen off at Kabul airport by Muhammad Osman Rasikh, attorney general; 'Abdul Wali Hojjat, deputy chief justice; a number of the members of the High Council of the Supreme Court; and his excellency Burhan Ghazal, Iraqi ambassador extraordinary in Kabul.

Commerce Minister Holds Talks in Moscow

LD0301231189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The expansion of commerce between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union was discussed today during the talks that began in Moscow today between the delegations of the two countries.

Muhammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce of the Republic of Afghanistan; and Konstantin Katushev, minister of foreign economic relations of the USSR, are heading the delegations of their respective countries.

Both sides are discussing the prospect of trade exchanges between the two countries in 1989.

The volume of trade between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in the past few years has remained at the market level of some R800 to R900 million a year. The Soviet Union exports to Afghanistan industrial equipment, transport vehicles, petroleum products, foodstuffs, and other commodities. In return Afghanistan mostly exports natural gas, cotton, leather, wool, fruit, and other traditional export commodities to the Soviet Union.

Notes on Violations Submitted to UNGOMAP

LD0501072389 Kabul BaKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan, 4, BAKHTAR—The 171st and 172nd notices of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords was submitted here today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

The 171st notice underlines 13 instances and 172nd notes 28 instances of violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords.

The notices asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and convey the findings to the government of the Republic of Afghanistan and UN secretary general's representative.

Special Guard Commander on Cease-Fire

LD0501092789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 4, BAKHTAR—Since the announcement of ceasefire by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces since January 1, the detachments of special guard of the RA just like other detachments of the Armed Forces have strictly observed the ceasefire, says General [name indistinct], general commander of special guard in an interview to a BIA reporter today.

He expressed hope that the armed opposition should follow suit, to abandon terrorist acts and to live in peace. He assured Kabul city inhabitants that full security prevails in the city and that the Armed Forces including the special guard are enjoying the strength to rebuff the armed opposition groups and the latter will never be able to disrupt the security of Kabul city or to occupy it.

The special guard, he continued, has experienced and loyal personnel as well as it possesses the most modern and sophisticated weapons. The soldiers and officers of the special guard are prepared to defend the gains of the April revolution and that of the policy of national reconciliation with high combat morale, he concluded.

In this connection, Mawlawi Mohammed Nafi [name as received], general director of Islamic Affairs in Kabol Province said that the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has on hand the peaceful initiatives with showing much flexibilities and this has provided the opportunity to bring peace in the country.

He added that the peaceful proposals set forth by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan accompanied with flexibility receive the decisive support of the people and the opposite side should also observe cease-fire by giving due consideration to the sacred religion of Islam.

We are bound to get this philanthropic actions taken by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan to the ears of our countrymen throughout the country, concluded Mawlawi Nafi.

Violations of Unilateral Cease-Fire Cited

Violations 1 Jan

LD0101175589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Quoting the country's Armed Forces, BIA reported to us that despite the declaration of the Republic of Afghanistan on the observance of a cease-fire beginning 1 January—announced for the restoration of peace and security in the country and the cessation of war and bloodshed in the country—today extremist forces made clear violaions of the cease-fire in some parts of the country. Reports say extremists associated with the extremist groups of Gulbuddin violated the truce at 0750 this morning by firing with heavy weapons at Gowshtah and Deh Bala Districts in Nangarhar. Similarly, at 1600 extremist groups associated with Gulbuddin's extremists groups attacked the security posts in Gowshtah District. The Armed Forces in Nangarhar observing the cease-fire and the ensuring of peace and the safety of the life of the people, taking into account the declaration of the Republic of Afghanistan, launched reciprocal, resolute, and crushing attacks on the concentration centers of Gulbuddin's armed extremist group; eight people were killed and seven others were wounded. During the operation one DSHK, one weapons cache, and two mules carrying arms for extremists were destroyed.

The BIA military section adds that internecine clashes among the extremists have increased, and in a number of provinces the belligerent parties have suffered heavy loss of life and material. In clashes among groups associated with the extremist groups led by Gulbuddin, Rabbani, Khalis, and Mohammadi in the periphery of Kabol Province, Kuh-e Safi area of Parwan Province, Alingar District in Laghman, in the area of Zabol Province and Arghandab district of Qandahar, 21 extremists were killed and 10 others were wounded over the past 24 hours.

'Defensive' Operations 2 Jan

LD0201181489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Quoting competent Armed Forces sources, BAKHTAR reports that despite the Afghan Government's statement about the observation of a cease-fire from 1 January this year which was announced to meet the Afghan people's demand for an end to the war and to ensure peace and security in the country, flagrant violations occurred in some parts of the country today.

Today at 1535, elements from the Gulbuddin extremist group fired heavy weapons on residential areas around Qandahar City, in flagrant breach of the cease-fire. As a result three of our compatriots were martyred, and six were injured.

In reply to fire from the Gulbuddin extremist group, units and companies of the Armed Forces in Qandahar Province carried out a defensive operation to defend the peaceful life of the citizens of Qandahar city. As a result 31 extremists were crushed, and 27 others were injured. The Armed Forces seized a mortar with 27 shells, 8 rocket launchers, hundreds of rounds for various types of weapons, 50 antipersonnel mines and 7 antivehicle mines belonging to the enemy. A ZK-1, a DSHK, a mortar and hundreds of weapons were destroyed.

Also around 1300, elements from the Gulbuddin extremist group violated the cease-fire by firing heavy weapons onto the surroundings of Gardyz City, in the region of Tangay and areas around (Haron Khel) and (Ali Sher), in the Khowst District. In return, the country's Armed Forces replied in self-defense, as a result of which 17 extremists were killed and a large number were wounded.

This morning around 0830, elements from the Gulbuddin extremist group fired missiles on the residential areas of Jalalabad City and (Anay) and (Koshta) Districts, Nangarhar Province. The Armed Forces of Nangarhar Province reciprocated in self-defense and to ensure security, as a result of which 23 members of the Gulbuddin extremist group were crushed and a number wounded.

The clashes between the armed extremist groups and opposition groups which stem from internal disagreement among them over the distribution of goods stolen from the people have increased over the last 2 days. There have been heavy losses on the hostile sides. Armed bloody clashes have taken place between members of armed opposition extremist groups of Gulbuddin, Khalis, Rabbani, Muhammadi, and Sayyaf in the areas around Shakar Darreh and (Estalef), Kabol Province; Shindand and Enjil Districts, Herat Province; Now Zad and Nad-e 'Ali Districts, Helmand Province; Asmar District, Konarma Province; Khenjan Subdistrict, Baghlan Province; Alingar District, Laghman Province; and areas around Zabol Province. As a result 50 people were killed from all sides, and 51 others were badly injured.

Action on 3 Jan

LD0301212989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Quoting the authorized sources of the country's Armed Forces, BIA reports that despite the fact that the units and companies of the Armed Forces are observing a cease-fire, which was announced by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan to cease war and fratricide and maintain peace in the country, today too in some parts of the country, it has been broken by a number of bands of Gulbuddin and Rabbani. Members of the Gulbuddin and Khalis extremist groups today shelled Qandahar City and the security posts around it; there were no losses. The units and companies in Qandahar in their defense have reciprocated; (?43) extremists were killed and 12 were wounded.

Also, the members of the extremist Gulbuddin band, headed by Mamur Ghayur and Dr Esma'il, have breached the cease-fire at Baghlan City suburbs by launching heavy weapons against residential areas.

Another report says that today members of the extremist groups of Gulbuddin, Khalis, Sayyaf, and Rabbani fired heavy weapons on Gardeyz City residential areas, the 'Ali Khel Subdistrict and the Zarmangay region, Khowst Major District and at parts of Ghazni Province, thus violating the cease-fire.

According to another report in response to the violation of cease-fire, which took place by members of the Gulbuddin and Khalis groups at regions of Nangarhar Province, the units and companies of the Armed Forces reciprocated in self-defense; 6 ground-to-ground Blowpipe missiles, 19 ground-to-ground missiles, 2 [word indistinct] missiles, and thousands of assorted rounds of ammunition were seized.

The BIA military section adds that bloody clashes have recently occurred between the extremist groups and the opposition at the Herat and Helmand villages; 18 extremists, including their ringleader, Kamal, have been killed, and 20 have been wounded from both sides. Also six members of the Gulbuddin group have been captured by the hostile group at villages in the Nad-e 'Ali District.

Violations in Provinces

LD0401062489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 3, BAKHTAR—Although the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) have been fully observing the unilateral cease-fire announced by the state of the RA, the cease-fire was broken in some provinces by a number of Gulbuddin and Rabbani extremist groups today.

BIA military correspondents report that members of Gulbuddin and Khalis extremist groups fired surface-to-surface rockets on the residential areas of Qandahar Province today as a result of which a number of civilians were killed.

The Armed Forces resorted to retaliatory actions in Qandahar Province as a result of which 42 extremists were killed and 12 others wounded.

According to other reports, the extremists fired rockets in the past two days against the residential areas in Baghlan, Paktia, Ghazni and Nangarhar Provinces as well as Khowst grand district. Thus, the Armed Forces resorted to counter actions which resulted in destroying a large number of arms belonging to the extremists. Some arms and munitions fell at the hands of the Armed Forces in the said provinces as well.

Differences increase by each passing day among the extremist groups inside the country, add our military correspondents.

18 persons attached to extremists were killed and 20 others wounded during the armed clashes which recently took place among the extremists in Herat and Helmand Provinces.

'Decisive Blows' Struck 4 Jan

LD0401184089 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Quoting authorized sources of the country's Armed Forces, the BAKHTAR military section reports that today open violations by the extremists took place in a number of the country's provinces. An extremist group of Pahlavan Mahmud today attacked Charikar City with 10 rounds of heavy weapons and thus expressed its opposition to the unilateral cease-fire announced by the republic of Afghanistan for ending war, destruction, and fratricide. Also, bands belonging to the criminal group of Gulbuddin shelled 22 rounds of heavy weapons at villages in Farah and Qandahar Provinces. An extremist group belonging to Dr Abdullah attacked regions in Jabalos Saraj District with heavy weapons another warmongering group, headed by Bashir Khalid, attacked parts of the Badakhshan Province with long-range and heavy weapons.

The BAKHTAR military section adds that the Armed Forces units and companies stationed at Qandahar Province, in reply to the cease-fire violators, in self-defense and in defense of the peace-loving people of that province, inflicted decisive blows at the armed extremists as a result of which 25 of the extremist lunatics were killed, 23 were severely wounded one DShK, one mortar, one truck carrying weapons and ammunition along with 18 strongholds of these enemies of peace were destroyed, and 8 ground-to-ground missiles, 4 boxes of hand grenades, and 7 antipersonnel mines were seized from them.

Internecine clashes and severe disputes among the extremists which emanate from their deep and wide differences, have gained wide dimensions recently and have resulted in heavy losses of life and material to the sides in conflict in some provinces of the country.

During the bloody clashes that recently took place between individuals belonging to the bands of Mawlawi Muhammadi, Gulbuddin, Khalis, and Gaylani at the Alingar District, Laghman Province and in the villages of Qandahar Province, a total of 15 people from all the hostilities were killed and more than 10 were severely wounded.

115 'Extremists' Killed in Mopping-Up Operations

LD0101061289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec 31 BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have carried out mopping up operations in the Provinces of Herat, Helmand, Qandahar, Nangarhar, Lowgar and Konduz in the past two days.

During these operations, the Armed Forces of Afghanistan have killed 115 extremist elements fifty five of which were eliminated alone on the route of Konduz and Shirkhan border, who tried to loot the people's properties. A large number of the extremists were also wounded as well as a large quantity of weapons were captured from them.

Two extremists belonging to different rival armed groups were also killed as a result of internal clashes which took place between them in four provinces.

Kabul Police Uncover Weapons Cache

LD0301231589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Police command officials in Kabul's Zone 8 captured and disposed of an amount of arms and ammunition during their patrol of the areas of (Shiwaki), Sahak, and (Mamozai). The weapons had been hidden in the area by extremists.

The BIA military section reports that the cache consisted of 84 fuses of the reactive missiles, a .303 rifle [words indistinct], thousands of rounds of ammunition, five rocket detonators, and 16 hand grenades with fuses.

New Party Newspaper PAYAM Makes Debut

LD0101061889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec 31 BAKHTAR—The first issue of daily PAYAM, MESSAGE, organ of the Central Committee of the PDPA, has come out of print in four pages on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, here today. The daily PAYAM, as a speaker of the party, is the continuer of the path followed by HAQIQAT-E ENQE-LAB-E SAWR and other previous party organs. The daily PAYAM under the conditions of national reconciliation will keep on its endeavours towards securing peace and ending war, the establishment of a broad-based government and political pluralism and the solution of the country's existing problems through dialogue and political talks.

The first issue of daily PAYAM is publishing variety of subjects such as a report on 24th anniversary celebration of the PDPA, statement of the Republic of Afghanistan on the announcement of cease-fire, poem, a message of facts, PDPA on course of evolution, great political and combat force and other domestic and foreign informational reports.

Today's daily PAYAM also carries an editorial under the title of "PAYAM" a Renewal of Committment to People. It is pointed out in the editorial that the PDPA is proud of the fact that the progressive literature has been reflected through its glaring newspapers such as KHALQ, PARCHAM and the daily HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR. The PDPA has played its prominent role in the enrichment and the spread of patriotic and progressive literature.

The editorial recalls that we can confidently say that the newspapers KHALQ, PARCHAM and the daily HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR have nurtured patriotic and revolutionary generations and has played a significant role in the revolutionary movement of Afghanistan.

PAYAM, the organ of the PDPA CC, undertakes this mission to give a powerful impetus to the progressive movement of the country and to be a message of peace and progress. Let the daily be a message of peace and progress. Let the daily be a message of mankind, internationalism and a message of man to man.

We begin the debut of the daily PAYAM with such a high hope. It will play its valuable role in securing peace as well as in the contemporary thinking of our epoch, points out the editorial.

The daily PAYAM will be a message of peace, truthfulness freedom, justice and social progress, the editorial emphasizes.

Bangladesh

Dhaka Reports U.S. Downing of Libyan Jets

BK0401161289 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The U.S. fighters have shot down two Libyan jets over the Mediterranean. A Pentagon spokesman claimed in Washington the Libyan jets were shot down today by two U.S. F-14 Tomcat fighters from an aircraft carrier. He also said the U.S. jets were on routine patrol in international waters when they were approached by the Libyan planes.

In Tripoli, a Libyan Foreign Ministry spokesman said they have no information about the incident.

According to an earlier report, a U.S. task force comprising an aircraft carrier and 12 other warships was heading toward the Mediterranean. The development followed the U.S. accusation that Libya was operating a chemical weapons plant near Tripoli, but Libya categorically denied the U.S. allegation.

Meanwhile, representatives of 23 nonaligned nations have voiced their support to Tripoli in the face of the American threat to destroy the Libyan plant. They held a meeting at the U.N. headquarters. A statement is due to be issued later today.

Foreign Minister Comments on Visit to Iran

BK0101150089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1438 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 1 (AFP)—Iran is taking steps to improve relations with its Arab neighbours following the end of its eight-year war with Iraq, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud told a press conference here.

Mr Mahmud briefed reporters Saturday [31 December] on his recent visit to Teheran, where he met with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati for talks on increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Iranian leaders had indicated they were trying to improve relations with "rest of the Arab world," he said, but did not elaborate.

Mr Mahmud, who took over as foreign minister in early December, said he had reiterated Bangladesh's support for the United Nations-sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

The visit between December 21 and 24 was made at Mr Velayati's invitation.

Mr Mahmud said he was satisfied with the way the talks with Mr Velayati and other Iranian leaders had gone and that "the visit went off well viewed from the economic point of view."

During the visit discussions were held on the possibility of Iran's employing more skilled workers from Bangladesh, he said.

Of the 10,000 Bangladeshis currently working in Iran, including doctors, nurses and engineers, only 2,000 are legal immigrants, he told the conference.

Iranian authorities have agreed to treat as a special case Bangladesh's request that the remaining 8,000 be given legal status, he said, adding that Teheran had expressed an interest in taking more Bangladeshi doctors and skilled workers.

Border Guards Detain 26 Burmese Nationals

BK0201064489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0501 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 2 (AFP) - Bangladesh border guards have detained 26 Burmese nationals for entering the country illegally, press reports Monday said.

The Burmese, including 10 children and some women, were rounded up at a village in the northern frontier district of Dinajpur Sunday, the daily INQILAB said.

It said the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), acting on a tip, had raided the village of Tegra and found the Burmese staying with a Bangladeshi family.

The Burmese reportedly hailed from Mongdu and carried no valid papers for travelling in Bangladesh, the paper said but gave no further details.

The district administration at Dinajpur, about 272 kilometers (170 miles) from here, could not be immediately contacted for more information.

India

Government Officials Resign Over Violence, Murder

BK0401162489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The home minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr K. Sivaprasad Rao, has resigned. He told newsmen in Hyderabad this afternoon that he is stepping down owning moral responsibility for the recent violent incidents in the coastal districts of the state. He said he submitted his resignation to the chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, personally this morning.

Meanwhile, the Telugu Desam MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr D. Rajashekhara, the prime suspect in the murder of the Congress-I MLA, Mr V. Mohanaranga Rao, today surrendered before the commissioner of police in Hyderabad. The commissioner told our correspondent that Mr Rajashekhara has surrendered voluntarily. The murder of the Congress-I MLA had led to widespread violence in the four coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh last week.

5 Pakistani 'Intruders' Killed Near Border

BK0501070589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, the president of the state BJP Yava Morcha [Youth Front], Mr Tarsen Singh Bahar, was shot dead by terrorists at his house in the Sultanwind area of Amritsar this morning. Mr Bahar's security guard was seriously injured in the attack.

Meanwhile, the BSF [Border Security Force] shot dead five Pakistani intruders in the Gharinda section of the Indo-Pak border last night.

3 'Pakistan-Trained Militants' Arrested in Kashmir

BK0301160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Three Pakistan-trained militants have been arrested after raids on their hideouts in north Kashmir. According to police, the raids were conducted in Bandipur District, about 90 kms from Srinagar, and a large quantity of explosive materials and subversive literature were recovered.

Security Forces Arrest 15 'Terrorists' in Punjab

BK0201160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, security forces have arrested 15 terrorists from their hideouts in different parts of the state. Seven of them are from Ferozepore District; five from Faridkot District; and one each from Amritsar, Jullundur, and Sangrur Districts. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

A terrorist was shot dead by a rival group of terrorists in Qadian area of Gurdaspur last night. The assailants have been identified by the relatives of the deceased.

In another incident, terrorists gunned down one person in Bhatinda District and one in Gurdaspur District.

Narora Atomic Power Unit To Start 'This Month'

BK0301161889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The 235-megawatt first unit of the Narora Atomic Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh will be commissioned this month. This was revealed by the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Dr P.K. Iyengar. He also said two more atomic power plants will be set up shortly. One such unit will come up at Kodamkuram in the southern region, while another unit would be added to the Rajasthan plant.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Official on Libyan Jet Downings

LD0401172689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Following the claim of the U.S. War Ministry [as heard] about the downing of two Libyan aircraft by the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean, the spokesman for our Foreign Ministry said that whether or not the U.S. claim is true or false, it is clear that the United States has prepared itself for new aggression against Libya.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: In former U.S. former aggressions, at first they made some false accusations against Libya. Then the U.S. fleet engaged in provocative acts in the area close to Libyan waters and caused aircraft crashes. Then the U.S. attacked Libya and massacred innocent people.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: Although the recent U.S. accusations about the existence of a chemical weapons factory in Libya have been dismissed [ba bi 'etena'i ruberu shodeh ast] by close allies of the United States and by various countries of the world, including the nonaligned countries, Islamic countries and the OAU member countries have condemned in advance the U.S. move and have warned against the new aggression against Libya.

Nevertheless, it seems that the militarists ruling over the United States have prepared a new aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the brotherly country of Libya. The Islamic Republic of Iran warns

about the dangerous consequences of any U.S. aggression against Libya and expresses its complete support and solidarity with the leadership of the Libyan Government and nation.

Musavi Comments on U.S.-Libyan Incident

LD0501110789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The Algerian Ambassador to Tehran met this morning with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. According to a Central News Unit report, the Algerian ambassador conveyed the greetings and salutations of the new Algerian prime minister to Mir Hoseyn Musavi, and stressed that the Algerian Government and the Muslim Algerian people are standing at the Iranian people's side.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, after expressing his appreciation for the friendly message of the new Algerian prime minister, emphasized the need for greater cooperation between Iran and Algeria in regional and international issues. He said: While the interests of Muslim nations are daily being threatened by aliens, we should be able to protect one another, especially under emergency conditions. He added: In our view, the U.S. attack on two Libyan aircraft is aggression against all Islamic countries. Today it attacks Libya, and if it is not confronted [va agar barkhord nashavad] tomorrow, it is possible that Algeria or Iran will become the victims of aggression. We should stand up against such impudent acts, and we should prevent them.

Khamene'i Sends Solidarity Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0401173289 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, (IRNA)—Reiterating solidarity with Libya against growing U.S. lawlessness, President 'Ali Khamene'i today handed homecoming ambassador to Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Khonsari a special message to Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The president adverting to the abortive U.S. attack on Libya in 1986 said "Iran stands firm besides the Libyan revolutionary nation and its leader, and backs Tripoli against any threat by global arrogance, especially Washington."

U.S. fighter bombers launched a brutal attack on two Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in April 1986, killing and wounding a large number of Muslim citizens.

In a fresh aggression today, U.S. fighters shot down two Libyan MiG 23s over international waters of the Mediterranean Sea as the U.S. propaganda campaign against Tripoli took a new and dangerous turn.

Since the past few months Washington has carried out a systematic ballyhoo of alleged chemical arms factories in Libya, but keeps an ominous silence when it comes to Iraq's confirmed chemical arms plant at Samarra, despite the Ba'athist regime's wanton use of these banned substances both against Iran and the Iraqi Kurds.

Delegation Delivers Imam's Message to Gorbachev

Ahmad Khomeyni Describes Letter

LD0401165289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Following the dispatch of a message from Imam Khomeyni to Mr Gorbachev, our correspondent contacted Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni to ask about the contents of the message from his holiness the imam.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni replied: Briefly, the contents of the message is this: Since assuming his position, Mr Gorbachev has been engaged in a new round of revision [baz-negari], development, and facing up to world realities. Therefore, his holiness the imam regards Gorbachev's courage, boldness, and bravery as praiseworthy.

Elsewhere Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said that the imam's message to Mr Gorbachev graciously stated: It is clear to all that henceforth communism must be sought in the museums of world political history and that it is not possible for materialism to save humanity from the crisis of a lack of spiritual conviction—a crisis which is the most fundamental illness of human society in the West and the East.

He stressed that in part of the message the imam stated: When after 70 years one heard from the minarets of the mosques of some of your republics the call "God is great," professions of faith in the prophethood of the last of the prophets, peace be on him and his scion, then all supporters of the pure Muhammadan Islam cried for joy.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in another part of his remarks, said that the message debated the differences between materialists and those who believe in God. His holiness the imam asked Mr Gorbachev to think about Islam and do serious research on it.

Delegation Meets Gorbachev

LD0401170389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, special envoy of Imam Khomeyni, accompanied by Mr Larijani and Mrs (Dabbagh), met with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the USSR. Amoli presented Gorbachev a written message from the leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Ayatollah Javadi Amoli said: Imam Khomeyni is a religious leader and his message is therefore within the framework of the messages given by religious leaders.

Referring to this point, Mr Gorbachev said in this meeting: We have been carefully keeping up with revolutionary developments in Iran from the start, and we have deep regard for the path that the Iranian nation has chosen for their country under the leadership of the Imam Khomeyni.

Mr Gorbachev added: We believe that while we and you follow different faiths this does not, however, prevent us from cooperating on the basis of common principles and traditions. He emphasized: We would like to amend those mistakes we committed in the past and to create a healthy life for our people from the material and spiritual standpoints. We have decided to shortly approve the law permitting freedom of worship.

The Soviet leader, in conclusion, while conveying his warm wishes to the Imam Khomeyni and the people of Iran, emphasized: The Soviet Union—as a neighbor country—welcomes the fact that Iran is entering the new era of peace and is ready to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all possible fields.

Delegation Returns From USSR

LD0401125889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The delegation sent by the imam of the ummah, led by Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, which had traveled to Moscow to present the message of Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, to Mr Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, returned to Tehran on Wednesday night.

After returning to Tehran Ayatollah Javadi Amoli answered our reporter's questions at the airport. I draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Javadi Amoli, can you please tell us something about the meetings that you had in the USSR and [words indistinct] and about the message of his holiness the imam.

[Amoli] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As his holiness the imam is occupying the place of the immaculate imams [Hazrat-e imam az un nazar keh jay-e imam-e ma'sum neshasteh ast] and [words indistinct], in the same way that the mission of the noble prophet, God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his kin, was all-encompassing [jahan-shomul], his holiness the prophet sent messages to guide and lead all societies. [Words indistinct] the imam is also doing the same thing which was done by the noble prophet, God's salutations and benedictions be upon him and his kin. What he sent to the Soviet leader was, in fact, an all-encompassing message. It was for the salvation [sa'adat-e] of all societies, especially the Soviet Union.

[Reporter] Did you have any discussions with Soviet officials about the changes, fundamental reforms, which we have witnessed in the Soviet Union for some time?

[Amoli] We had some discussion. Those reforms were not unrelated with the changes which had come about as the result of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the leadership of his holiness the imam.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Group Briefs Khomeyni

LD0501112289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, Mr Mohammad Javad Larijani, and Mrs (Marzieh Hadidehchi), today met with Imam Khomeyni and submitted a report on their visit to the Soviet Union to the imam of the ummah. The delegation went to the Soviet Union to deliver a message to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, from the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Correction to Khamene'i-Vorontsov Meeting

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Further on Khamene'i-Vorontsov Meeting," published in the 4 January Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 52-53:

Page 53, column one, paragraph three, sentence one and two:...Referring to the contacts that exist between Iranian officials and the eight-party coalition of Afghans in Iran and the leaders of the seven-party coalition of Afghans resident in Pakistan, and Iran's readiness for determining the future of Afghanistan, the president said: Afghanistan's real interests [ra'is-e jomhur ba eshareh be tamas-e maqamha-ye keshvareman ba goruh-haye hashtganeh-ye afghani dar iran va rahbaran-e goruh-ha-ye haftganeh-ye afghani moqim-e pakistan va amadegi-ye iran baray-e ta'yin-e sarnevesht-e ayandeh-ye afghanistan, goft]...(rewording for clarity and supplying vernacular)

Pakistan

Islamabad Reports U.S. Downing of Libyan Planes

BK0401162089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] The United States shot down two Libyan planes today over the Mediterranean. A Defense Department spokesman in Washington said the incident involved two F-14 fighters from the American aircraft carrier John F.Kennedy and two Soviet-built Libyan Mig-23's. He said the clash occurred to the east of Libya. He alleged that the aircraft carrier Kennedy and its escort vessel were approached at high speed by the Libyan planes. The American fighters, protecting the carrier group, fired on the Libyan planes and brought them down.

Libya has confirmed the shooting down of two of its planes over international waters. In a statement, Libya described the attack as premeditated aggression and said the Libyan aircraft were on a normal reconnaissance mission. The Paris office of the Libyan news agency JANA announced that Libya is to request an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council over the shooting down of its planes.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry said in Moscow that any military strike against Libya would deal a serious blow to the current improvement in the international situation. However, he did not comment on the White House statement regarding the shooting down of the Libyan planes.

Vorontsov Discusses Afghan Issue With Yaqub Khan

BK0401153089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, the first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, held talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad this afternoon. They exchanged views on bilateral relations and matters relating to Afghanistan, and also reviewed regional developments of mutual interest.

Further Talks Held 5 Jan

BK0501112189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The Soviet first deputy foreign minister and ambassador in Kabul, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, held another round of talks with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in Islamabad today. The talks centered on the Afghan problem. Meanwhile, the Afghan mujahidin leaders based in Iran held talks with leaders of the Afghan mujahidin alliance in Islamabad today. Radio Pakistan's representative understands that they discussed and evolved a common strategy for the discussions with Mr Vorontsov which are expected to be to held tomorrow.

Peace Efforts 'Face Snags'

BK0501085089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 5 Jan 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 5 (AFP)—Efforts by the Soviet ambassador to Kabul to reach agreement on Afghanistan's future face snags as mujahidin rebels differ on the form of a future government in Kabul and some oppose talks with him, diplomats here say.

Yuli Vorontsov, who is also the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, said on arrival in Islamabad Wednesday that he was here for "decisive talks" on Afghanistan's future which he hoped would include talks with mujahidin leaders as well as Pakistani officials.

But he cast doubt on the completion of a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan by the February 15 deadline set in a U.N.-brokered accord, saying the commitment to pull out would "depend on developments."

He also stressed Moscow's desire that the mujahidin would accept a ceasefire offer made by both the Soviet Union and Afghan leader Najibullah.

Mr Vorontsov had a first session of talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on Wednesday. A second meeting due to be held early Thursday was postponed, officials said, but was expected to be held later in the day. They gave no reason for the postponement.

Analysts said Mr Vorontsov was hoping that Pakistan would put pressure on the mujahidin for the success of his mission, adding that he could return here in a few weeks as the rebels have said they will form a Shoora (Council) before February 15.

The Shoora, which would decide the composition of a new government, would give 50 percent representation to rebel field commanders operating inside Afghanistan.

Leaders of a seven-party rebel alliance based in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar have set conditions for talks with Mr Vorontsov since meeting with him for the first time in Saudi Arabia a month ago, and some of them are unwilling to continue talks with him at all.

The resumption of direct talks with Mr Vorontsov, tentatively planned for Friday, would depend on "the Soviet response to our terms," alliance chief Sebghatullah Mojaddedi said.

"We hope they want to withdraw and if they want a solution they should come down," he added, but acknowledged that four of the seven parties were opposed to talks with the Soviet minister as he was acting as a mediator between the rebels and "the enemy," the PDPA.

Diplomats here said that there were differences among mujahidin leaders and that the alliance was also showing a lack of interest in Mr Vorontsov's mission, apparently expecting a collapse of the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul within months of a Soviet withdrawal.

Mr Mojaddedi has said that Moscow must drop its insistence on giving the ruling PDPA (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) any role in a coalition government involving the mujahidin.

He stressed to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Soviet troops must make an immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Afghanistan, accepting the "Afghan people's right to determine their future destiny."

Western diplomats here said Mr Vorontsov's chief immediate concern was to obtain a ceasefire before the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Under the U.N.-brokered Geneva accord between Pakistan and Afghanistan and guaranteed by Washington and Moscow, the Soviet Union is to withdraw all its troops by February 15.

If the last phase of the pullout could be carried out smoothly without a bullet being fired at the departing troops, Moscow would be able to cite this as showing that its forces left the country in peace, diplomats said.

But both Iran- and Pakistan-based resistance fighters have rejected a ceasefire announced by Afghan President Najibullah last week.

Representatives of Iran-based Shi'ite Afghan resistance groups have arrived in Islamabad to help coordinate resistance strategy and will join Mr Mojaddedi if talks with Mr Vorontsov go ahead Friday, resistance sources said.

Mr Vorontsov has already met with the Iran-based rebels and former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah in his bid to achieve a broadbased government acceptable to all sides, but these meetings angered the main rebel groups based in Peshawar.

The seven-party alliance is divided on whether the former king should be allowed to play any part in a new government.

Sri Lanka

Mahajana Party Wants Election Pact With LTTE

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[Text] New Delhi, Dec 31 (AFP)—A major left-wing opposition party in Sri Lanka is ready to join hands with Tamil militants for general elections scheduled February 15 if the Tamils renounce their separatist drive, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Saturday [31 December].

Ossie Abhaya Gunasekhara, leader of the Sri Lankan Mahajana Party [SLMP] (Peoples Party), said in the southern Indian city of Trivandrum that his party was prepared to form a common opposition front to contest the elections, PTI said.

Mr Gunasekhara, who came a poor third in Sri Lanka's December 19 presidential elections, said his party had been trying to woo the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and persuade them to give up arms and join the national mainstream.

The LTTE is the only one of six major Tamil militant groups that rejects the August 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact designed to end Tamil separatist violence. The other five gave up their violent separatist struggle when the pact was signed in 1987.

Mr. Gunasekhara said he would also be ready to put up a joint front with the country's leading opposition party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), headed by Sirimavo Bhandaranaike, if she was ready to support the Indo-Sri Lankan accord.

The SLFP lost narrowly to the ruling United National Party in the December presidential elections.

His party would contest all the 197 seats in the parliamentary elections, said Mr. Gunasekhara, who was in Trivandrum to attend the Communist Party of India (Marxist) congress.

Though the SLMP members are mostly Sinhalese, they have had a good understanding with the Tamil militants and have been sympthetic to their cause.

Any party alliances must be hammered out by January 6, the date set for final filing of nominations.